



Stalls scrapped after council's massive price hike MP BACKS CALL TO SAVE MARKET

By Clare Butler

POLITICIANS have spoken of their sadness of the axing of a popular market in Stourbridge after a massive hike in rents by Dudley Council made it 'impossible' to run.

Bosses behind the fortnightly market said it couldn't continue following a change in policy which they said amounted to a staggering 850 per cent rise in rent.

Stourbridge MP Margot James said she was 'very disappointed' by the market's closure and has urged the council to reconsider their price hike. She said: "The market has been a great asset for the town and has boosted the local economy."

The long-running Halesowen Market has also been affected by the change with managers set for crisis talks with the council.

Councillor Mo Hanif, who represents the Lye and Stourbridge North ward, said he was sad to hear the market would be closing.

He said: "I always pop up there on a Saturday morning. It makes a weekend because people look forward to it and it creates a nice atmosphere. A lot of our town centres have been empty and we are constantly doing work to improve them, so to lose something like this is very sad."

Enhance

"We want to enhance our towns and bring more people together and that's what the market did. We don't want any of our towns to become a ghost town."

The price hike was prompted by the council's decision to charge traders consent fees for each stall they run rather than a single cost, as had previously been the case.

The market had been a popular addition every other Saturday on Lower High Street and Coventry Street. But managers at LSD Promotion were left stunned when they were told rents would be increasing.

Dermot McGillicuddy, of LSD, said: "It's impossible. It is a family market with mainly local traders who are charged £15 for a stall. We haven't made any money from it this year, which is fine because the big markets pay for the little markets, but then they go and put the rents up 850 per cent. It's very disappointing."

CLASSIC CARS MOTORED IN AT GLASS CONE



Alan Thompson, from Wordsley, with his 1986 Lotus Esprit Series 3 which was among the cars on show at the Red House Glass Cone

VISITORS to the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley had a chance to view classic car models made from around the world at an event at the weekend.

Around a dozen cars went on display at the Black Country Classic Car event.

Among them was a 1986 Lotus Esprit Series 3 owned by Alan Thompson, from Wordsley.

He purchased the 2.2 litre vehicle nine

years ago for £9,000, but believes it is now worth £19,800.

He said: "They've stopped making the model now so the valuation has gone up."

The 62-year-old HGV driver had always wanted the car after seeing it used in a James Bond film.

He said: "When I drive it around I get two reactions, some people totally ignore it, others screw their heads round and almost fall over."

Another vehicle on show on Sunday was a Fiat 500 1, made in Italy in 1969. It was purchased by owner Tony Jones, from Kingswinford, four years ago for £7,000. After carrying out work on the car, he believes it is now worth £10,000.

The 64-year-old said: "The car keeps me busy and it is great to get it out and about at the weekends."

POLICE

Suspicious powder sent to MP's office

A POLICE investigation has been launched after a box containing a suspicious white powder was sent to an MP's constituency office in Wordsley.

Mike Wood says staff at his office on High Street were panic stricken after one of them opened a package on Tuesday morning and a powder spilled out. The Dudley South Conservative MP, who was not at his office at the time, said the box appears to have been sent from India and contained 'anti-Islamic statements'.

EVENT

Velo cycle ride will be back next year

VELO Birmingham will be back next year, say organisers who have heralded the weekend's 100-mile cycle race as an 'exceptional' event.

More than £2 million was raised for charities by the 15,000 cyclists who took part on Sunday. But road closures due to the event angered some people and tacks were left on the route.

● Cycles and sabotage – page 3

ACCIDENT

Man, 91, hit by car has died in hospital

THE elderly man who was struck by a car in Stourbridge on Friday afternoon has died in hospital.

Michael Dudok, aged 91, was hit by a car in New Road, at around 12.25pm. Officers said a driver was assisting them with their enquiries.

Anyone with information can contact police on 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

● Gornal crash probe – page 8

INSIDE

NEON NIGHT RUN SUCCESS



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Double bill tour is Wonder-ful Stuff!



Jonn Penney and Miles Hunt

IT'S been 27 years since two of Stourbridge's finest bands – The Wonder Stuff and Ned's Atomic Dustbin – shared a stage, but they will be appearing together in a double-headline tour in 2018.

The tour celebrating the days when Stourbridge was mentioned in the same breath as Manchester and Liverpool for its thriving music scene will include two consecutive nights at Birmingham's O2 Academy on April 14 and 15. The two bands grew up alongside one another and their first ever live show together was on The Wonder Stuff's

Disco King tour at the long-gone Hummingbird venue in Birmingham.

To celebrate this reunion both bands sold limited number of tickets at 1990 prices of just £7.

With a career spanning more than three decades, The Wonder Stuff have sold millions of albums worldwide with eight studio releases to date. They had hit singles Size Of A Cow and, with comedian Vic Reeves, a cover of Dizzy.

The band, fronted by Miles Hunt, continue to record and tour.

Formed 30 years ago, Ned's Atomic Dustbin quickly gained a huge fan base after those initial shows with The Wonder Stuff and shot straight to number one in the indie singles chart in July 1990 with Kill Your Television. The Neds, fronted by Jonn Penney, saw their first Sony single Happy storm into the Top 20 and their debut album, God Fodder, went top five as well as achieving success in the USA with the band also gaining a cult following in Japan.

Joining them will be DJ Graham Crabb from Pop Will Eat Itself, another band from the Stourbridge scene. Tickets £30 will be available from tomorrow (Friday) at 9am via ticketmaster.

Town's former police station is up for sale

IT WAS a fair cop for many criminals who were banged up in the cells there. Now police are looking for a fair price for this former station.

The former Stourbridge Police Station, which has stood on New Road for more than a century, is on the market.

The empty station, which shut for good in June, is up for sale through agents GVA with offers invited from developers.

The old station, part of which dates back to 1885, even includes a bar, lounge and pool room where officers used to unwind after a busy day pounding the beat.

Stourbridge town councillor Steve Clark said: "It is disappointing but it is what is, we move on and my job is to make sure we have got some police presence in Stourbridge.

Hub

"We're trying to create a police hub to keep a number of police in Stourbridge and they have looked at a couple of rooms that we have made available for them."

Sitting on the busy ring road the site has three buildings including the former station, Wendy House and an accommodation block.

The station building is 14,962 square feet. Wendy House is the smallest building on-site at just 1,593sq-ft and provides office accommodation at ground and first floor, with a small kitchen area on the ground floor.

A bar, lounge, pool room, locker rooms and toilets are included on the ground floor of the three-storey accommodation building section of the site, with 16 single en-suite bedrooms also on the first and second floor. A



The former Stourbridge Police Station on New Road which has been put up for sale via agents GVA

communal kitchen and laundry room are also provided on the first floor.

Two former police stations also sold for a combined £865,000 earlier this year. Sheldon Police Station sold for £465,000 from a guide price of £180,000, while Longbridge Police Station achieved its guide price of £400,000 back in July.

The pair were among 28 police stations that had either already shut or were due to close over the next two years as part of efforts by West Midlands Police to save £8.5 million. Wall-sall Police Station was put back on the market after a deal fell through.

Car vandals on the rampage

DOZENS of cars were vandalised during a 12-hour crime spree in a Black Country borough which left a 'trail of destruction'.

Vandals smashed up 32 vehicles with a baseball bat whilst driving through streets in the Tipton and Branhall areas of Sandwell.

Police chiefs have condemned the 'terrible incident' and are appealing for help to trace the suspects.

It comes as reports came from the

community about similar vandalism that has taken place in recent weeks with one car being torched.

The latest incident took place between 7pm on September 18 and 7am the following day. A police spokesman said: "It appears a silver or grey Citroen Picasso was driven along roads with a male hanging out of a window. He was using something that resembled a baseball bat to smash several vehicles."

Outline plan for 100 new homes on site next to wood

PLANS for a major housing development near Haden Hill Park have been revealed.

Developer A and J Mucklow Group has lodged plans to put around 100 homes on a green site at Haden Cross, Cradley Heath, where Haden Cross House once stood. The site covers a large area stretching back from Halesowen Road, near Haden Hill Park.

An application for outline permission has been lodged with Sandwell Council with further details on the development to be provided at a later stage.

A mix of properties is expected with a planning statement revealing some would likely be three storeys high. Some of the woodland on the land would be retained as part of the plan.

A design statement, said: "The area of the site which is closest to the A459, where the former Haden Cross House once stood, has been left unmanaged and is now overgrown.

"The proposed development includes the creation of a new residential development areas of open space and retains the woodland area to the east of the site. The design and access statement confirms the applicant's commitment to the delivery of a high-quality development."

Gigs aim to help the homeless

A THREE-DAY music festival to raise awareness and support for the homeless is being held in Dudley next month.

We Shall Overcome Dudley is back on October 6 to 8 after a successful inaugural event last year when £650 was raised for Heaven's Kitchen and We Love Carers.

This year the aim is to beat that total with cash and food donations for Leslie's Care Packages, a voluntary group which works with the homeless.

More than 25 performers will keep audiences entertained at Katie Fitzgerald's and The Mitre pubs in Stourbridge over the weekend as part of the fundraising campaign. People will be invited to make donations during the gigs. See weshallovercomeweekend.com/about for details.

Pirate opera show is a comic treat

STOURBRIDGE Choir and Orchestra is performing a concert version of Gilbert and Sullivan operetta Te Pirates of Penzance on October 14.

It is taking place in Haybridge High School, in Brake Lane, Hagley, from 6.30pm. Visit www.stouros.org.uk

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Thug jailed for attack on terrified ex-partner

A FRIGHTENED woman sat at home with the lights off because she was so intimidated by her ex-partner, a court was told.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that Richard Hughes, of Woodnorton Road, Rowley Regis, would not leave the woman alone after their year-long relationship ended.

The 28-year-old bombarded her with phone calls and text messages while repeatedly driving past her house, said Miss Samantha Powis, prosecuting.

He also arranged for people to bang on her door, shout abuse and park outside the address for long periods. The tormented victim, aged 24, later told police: "I was so scared I would sit in my house with no lights on."

A month after they split he accused her of a burglary at his mother's home and demanded that they meet on a car park. He slapped her, pulled her hair and took her to an address where he threatened to keep punching her until she admitted her 'guilt,' and produced a knife.

Mr Simon Burch, defending, said: "He has struggled with the idea he had to let the relationship go."

Hughes pleaded guilty to assault, putting a person in fear of violence and witness intimidation. He was jailed for three-and-a-half years and banned from any further contact with the woman.

Station revamp is driving ahead

CONTROVERSIAL proposals to re-develop Dudley Bus Station this week took a major step forward.

Dudley Council's development boss Councillor Ian Kettle said he was satisfied with the scheme after seeing the plans in detail.

Concerns about safety had been raised by cabinet colleague Councillor David Stanley, raising the possibility the council could block the scheme or ask for significant changes.

However, the way now looks to be clear for the project, brought by Transport for West Midlands.

Under the plans, buses will reverse in and out of bays at the revamped station, which had led to concerns pedestrian safety could be put at risk.

But Councillor Kettle insisted changes to the layout would mean passengers would not walk out in front of buses.

The long-awaited revamp of the town's bus station is expected to go ahead as part of the Midland Metro extension into the town - part of major changes over the next decade announced by West Midlands Mayor Andy Street last week.

Police escort gets bride to her wedding



Bride-to-be Emma caught in traffic

EVERYONE knows it can be very stressful on your wedding day?

Just ask Emma Johnson - she needed a police escort on her wedding day when the Birmingham Velo closed routes and caused traffic jams around her marriage venue.

Emma and Christopher had booked their wedding day at The Blakelands Country House in Bobbington, near Stourbridge, last year.

Knowing about the Birmingham Velo, which closed roads as thousands of cyclists pedalled through the area, they got themselves passes to ensure

a clear route through the road closures to the rural wedding venue.

But when it came to Sunday morning, their best-laid plans looked at risk of falling apart.

Mrs Johnson's mother Nicola Stackhouse said: "We planned to get to the venue for 9.30am, so got to Swindon early to get across there."

"We were given passes but when we arrived we were told we couldn't get through."

"We then spoke to one of the organisers and the police then said they would escort us through."

"It all adds to the stress of the day."

The Blakelands Country House later posted on Facebook: "Thank you ever so much to Wombourne Police Station for escorting today's bride into our venue. Blue lights, we love a dramatic entrance."

Friend Paula Constable wrote: "Knew you'd make a dramatic entrance Emma!" Group Wombourne Online said: "How wonderful, many congratulations."

The guests were not caught in the closures as the roads re-opened in time for them to get to the venue.

Cycling and sabotage - day of drama at Velo

FLAG-WAVING crowds, disgruntled businesses, fed up motorists and saboteurs.

The Birmingham Velo brought plenty of drama to the Black Country and its rural fringes on Sunday as 15,000 cyclists took on the 100-mile route.

The race started in Birmingham city centre at 6.30am, then went through Sandwell, South Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Wyre Forest, returning to the city centre via Halesowen.

Many road closures were in place, forcing some businesses to shut for the day and residents to leave their cars at home.

Nails and tacks were left on the route, including in Bobbington and Swindon, at the start of the day as some angry people tried to sabotage the event.

One tack caused a puncture to the back tyre of marshal David Coxhead's motorbike. His job was to assist vehicles having to use the route in an emergency. It included escorting a carer to a care home.

He said: "I thought they managed to clear them all, but one obviously got my tyre."

Swindon Parish Council chairman Richard Painter said: "Unfortunately there have been tacks put on the road around this area, they were left there in the morning."

Disruption

"Work was done to remove them, but I know some cyclists suffered punctures."

Among those hit by the closures was Lloyd Bigden who drove up from Ipswich for a stunt driving day at Halfpenny Green Airport near Bobbington. But the 24-year-old, and his friend Liam Burns, from Lichfield, could not get to the airport in time for the 11am start.

The disruption to the road network had forced many pubs to open later than usual, including the popular Red Lion in Bobbington, and Halfpenny Green Vineyard did not open until 2pm. People spoke of their frustration at not being able to get to events, including a wedding at Blakelands Country House in Bobbington, where special arrangements were made to save the day (see story above).

There were also cheers as hundreds of people lined the roads waving flags and holding signs of support for the charity fundraising cyclists.



Cyclists make their way through the village of Swindon, near Dudley, during the 100-mile Birmingham Velo



Cyclist Imran Khan's tyre was burst by a tack



Flag-waving supporters in Swindon

NEWS IN BRIEF

Face to Facebook with council boss

A COUNCIL leader was stepping in front of the cameras to take questions from the public.

Patrick Harley, leader of Dudley Council, was scheduled take part in a Facebook live interview, in a first for the local authority. He was being interviewed by the deputy leader of the council, David Vickers, yesterday (Wednesday) between 6pm and 7pm.

Councillor Harley said: "We are always looking for new ways to talk to people and discuss ideas with communities. This really is a ground-breaking initiative for councils nationally and I am really looking forward to Dudley leading the way."

No action planned on 'racetrack' road

HIGHWAYS bosses say they have 'no plans' to renovate a stretch of road which has seen two fatal accidents in the past year.

Residents have labelled the Stourbridge Road A449 as being a 'racetrack' in recent months. It comes as a 51-year-old man was killed on the route last month and a 90-year-old man in November last year.

A Highways England spokesman said: "We do not have plans to renovate this section of the network in the short-medium term. However, we will continue to review this area."

Call to hire more disabled people

TWO Black Country MPs have joined forces to host an event encouraging businesses to hire disabled people.

Stourbridge MP Margot James and Dudley South MP Mike Wood organised the event that was held at BMET Art & Design Centre in Brierley Hill on Saturday.

It had been arranged through the Disability Confident scheme, which sees the Government work with employers to challenge attitudes, increase understanding of disability and ensure disabled people have the opportunities to fulfil their potential.

Dragon called Doris is star of children's show

A CHILDREN'S show promising dragons and plenty of action is being presented in Stourbridge during the half-term break next month.

Doris the Dragon is aimed at children aged three to 10 and is staged at Stourbridge Town Hall on October 24. It has been written by Jonathan Blazer, a former producer of Sooty and Rainbow theatre shows. Call the box office on (01384) 812812 or go to www.boroughhalls.co.uk website.

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Bulldozers move in at former school

WORK to demolish a fire-hit former school in Dudley is about to get under way.

The bulldozers will move in on the old Pensnett School on Tiled House Lane, which has been shut since 2012.

The adjoining post-16 centre and sports hall on the site, used by Pens Meadow Special School, will not be affected by the demolition, which is expected to last five months.

A school outbuilding was destroyed by fire last month in a suspected arson attack.

The decision was taken to close Pensnett School due to dwindling numbers in 2010.

Apprentices on awards shortlist

TWO apprentices working at UTC Aerospace Systems in Wolverhampton have been shortlisted for a top regional award.

Daniel Foster, aged 22 from Bloxwich, and Jack Timms, 24, from Staffordshire, are both in the running for EEF Future Manufacturing Awards.

They were selected along with 21 other apprentices from across the Midlands.

Regional winners will be announced on November 10 at a ceremony at Nottingham Trent University and will then vie for the national title, which will be announced at an awards gala dinner in London early next year.

Poster app to see animals dancing

HI-TECH posters featuring ‘dancing’ animals are springing up at wildlife attractions including Dudley Zoo.

They have been created by Birmingham Royal Ballet to celebrate the return of award-winning one-act ballet Still Life at the Penguin Café, which is being staged as part of a triple bill one one-act ballets at Birmingham Hippodrome until Saturday.

The posters will be brought to life by those using the free Zappar app on their smart phone.

Gardeners show off their best at show

MORE than 41 competitors took part in the annual Colley Gate Gardening Club show.

The show near Halesowen included the West Midlands Heaviest Onion competition, which was sponsored by Ashwoods and was won by the gardening club’s chairman Mick Poultney. The best exhibit was won by Geoff Bradley for his chrysanthemums.

Body scans on move to Guest Hospital

A PROJECT has been announced to expand a £3.5 million imaging facility at Dudley Guest Hospital for patients needing body scans.

The outpatients centre at the Tipton Road hospital is being extended to handle an extra 20,000 scans a year.

Health bosses say the project will help to reduce waiting times for patients, but warned some existing services could be affected while the extension work takes places.

Work has already begun on the project and the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs the hospital, hope it will be completed by November 1.

Two new scanners will be brought in to produce the MRI and CT scans.

All patients in Dudley needing the scans will be sent to the Guest Hospital, freeing up services at Russells Hall Hospital and Corbett Outpatient Centre, where they previously went.

“This is very exciting news for our patients,” said Dr Alec Wolinski, chief of clinical support at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust. “Providing scanning facilities closer to patients’ homes will not only be more convenient but will also free up scanners at Russells Hall Hospital for inpatients and those needing emergency imaging.”

MRI and CT scans are used to scan body parts and can detect conditions such as internal injuries or cancer.

The development will also create an extra 22 parking spaces, adding to the project’s aim to make it easier for patients to access hospital services.

Machete schoolboy handed night curfew

By Annabal Bagdi

A TEENAGER who had a machete and cosh in school before being caught with a knife in the street has been given an evening curfew.

The 13-year-old, who cannot be named for legal reasons, took the foot-long machete and cosh into a secondary school in Dudley.

The youth, who had no previous convictions, broke the law again less than a month later when he had a large blade in his possession on a residential street.

Wolverhampton Youth Court handed the boy a 12-month referral order. He must stick to a two-month curfew, from 7pm until 7am daily.

Prosecutor Mr Kulbir Paul did not reveal details of the case in open court saying magistrates had been informed of the facts in a report.

Concerned school staff called police after suspecting the teenager was armed while in the classroom just before 3.30pm on July 11.

Mother

The youth, who was supported in court by his mother, was then caught with a kitchen knife in a street a couple of miles away from the school at 2.10pm on August 15.

Mr Gerry Vahey, defending, decided not to mitigate during the sentencing hearing or explain why the youngster committed the crimes, after magistrates said they planned to give him a referral order.

The youth admitted possessing a knife, blade or sharp pointed article in a public place and two counts of possessing an offensive weapon. He will undertake a programme that includes managing emotions and weapons awareness. They also ordered the destruction of the weapons and told his mother to pay £85 costs and a £20 victim surcharge.

Mural marks opening of £6m hotel



Artist William Burgess and Travelodge chief operations officer Craig Bonner with the mural at the new hotel

THE wraps have been taken off a £6 million hotel in Dudley with an eye-catching mural giving visitors a taste of the Black Country.

The Travelodge has been built on a key gateway into Dudley, close to the Black Country Living Museum on Tipton Road.

Its arrival has created 30 jobs and is part of a major investment in the West Midlands by the hotel chain. During the official opening, Dudley North MP Ian Austin said: “It’s a great vote of confidence by Travelodge in Dudley.”

“The light rail project innovation and the university

campus – this is a really exciting time for Dudley.” The hotel, which is Travelodge’s second in Dudley borough, has been built on the former site of the Royal Brierley Crystal factory and includes 78 bedrooms.

Artist William H. Burgess was asked to make a mural with a Black Country theme to mark its opening.

The 71-year-old, who spent three weeks on the project, said: “I’m very pleased because I was a schoolboy in Dudley 50-odd years ago.”

Travelodge, which has hotels in Kingswinford and West Bromwich, also plans to open new hotels in Wolverhampton and Walsall.

Pensions are safe, former steelworkers are assured

TRUSTEES of the giant £15bn steel industry pension fund have moved to reassure pensioners they have nothing to fear from the merger of Tata Steel and Thyssenkrupp.

The Black Country’s industrial heritage means it is home to thousands of pensioners who worked in the steel industry, including former foundries in Bilston, Halesowen and at Round Oak in Brierley Hill.

They are among 130,000 members nationwide of the British Steel Pension Fund (BSPS), which owns a major stake in Tata Steel UK.

The UK and European arms of Tata Steel will now become part of Europe’s second biggest steel business, following last week’s news of the start of a merger process with German steel giant Thyssenkrupp.

Approval

The deal has only been able to go ahead after the Tata was able to separate itself from the huge pension fund, which has estimated liabilities of £15 billion.

The pension deal, called an RAA or regulated apportionment arrangement, was given final approval earlier this month. It will see Tata Steel pay £550 million into the old pension fund, which goes into the UK pensions lifeboat, the Pension Protection Fund.

At the same time, the fund trustees are being given a one third stake in Tata Steel’s UK business. A new pension has been set up for Tata Steel’s 8,500 existing UK workers. Steel worker unions agreed to the deal.

Man in court on murder charge

A 30-year-old man has appeared in court charged with murder and grievous bodily harm after a fatal stabbing in Bewdley.

Shaun William Dewey, of Cherry Close, Bewdley, appeared at Birmingham Crown Court on Friday.

He is accused of murdering Andrew Owen, aged 45, who died from knife wounds to his neck and abdomen.

Dewey is also charged with causing grievous bodily harm to a 53-year-old man after an incident in Cherry Close.

Dewey was remanded in custody and will next appear at Worcester Crown Court on November 6.

Mr Owen was described as a ‘loving and proud father’ by his family. They said: “Known as a hard worker, he loved to spend his spare time fishing. His loss leaves a huge gap.”

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Have a say over council tax help

PEOPLE have been urged to have their say on changes to Dudley Council's council tax reduction scheme, before the October 15 deadline.

A consultation is taking place on plans which could see young people leaving the care system get extra help with paying their council tax.

The consultation asks if people are in favour of introducing a new 'vulnerable category' for care leavers aged 18 to 24.

People can take part in the consultation online at the dudley.gov.uk website while paper copies are available at Dudley Council Plus and borough libraries.

School's careers work recognised

A SCHOOL in Dudley has been recognised for its work preparing students for their future careers.

Bishop Milner Catholic College in Dudley has been awarded the Quality in Careers Standard. It is presented to schools and education providers who can demonstrate the importance they place on careers and how they support students to make decisions about life after school.

The college offers a range of activities to introduce students to the world of work including an academic enrichment programme for sixth-formers.

Kick start for a football dream

A TEENAGER'S dream of managing a new football team for four to six-year-olds has been given a huge boost, thanks to a building firm.

Seventeen-year-old Ryan Robinson, of Sedgley, applied to Persimmon Homes West Midlands for Gornal Athletic Minor Mini Kickers to become a Healthy Communities winner. Through the scheme, £750 is available to be spent on sports kit, equipment, coaching or facilities. Ryan is coaching at Gornal Athletic Minor Mini Kickers. To find out more, visit www.persimmonhomes.com/charity

Coffee and cakes are served up for charity

COFFEE and cake will be served up across the West Midlands as part of an annual cancer fundraiser.

Staff from 26 funeral homes will open their doors on or around today (Friday) to support Macmillan Cancer Support's world's biggest coffee morning, which collected £29.5 million in 2016.

A total of 78 events and activities are being held locally, see centralengland.coop for details.

Pub infested with mice is closed down by council

A PUB in Wordsley has been closed down following a mouse infestation.

The Lawnwood pub near King George V Park was shut down using emergency powers after Dudley Council applied for a court order.

The pub, on Lawnwood Road, was to remain closed until the 'infestation has been dealt with fully'.

Councillor Peter Miller, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "We closed the pub under emergency powers and applied to the court to back that closure."

"The court granted that application and the pub must stay closed until we are satisfied that the infestation has been dealt with fully."

"We will be making return visits and working with the pub."

The local authority's environmental health visited the pub last week and closed it down using the emergency powers.

Meanwhile a pub spokesman said staff would be following advice about how to clean up the premises.

The pub spokesman said: "Given the location of the pub it is always a challenge to manage pest control. We had been given best advice by an external company regarding pest proofing and pest control and had rigorously followed that advice. Our primary concern now is to work with the local authority ensuring compliance and health and safety of customers."

No change for election system

PEOPLE have voted in favour of retaining the current elections system in Dudley borough. More than 1,500 people completed the consultation on the future of the ballot which looked at potential changes.

Elections run every year with a year off every fourth year, but people were asked if they wanted to change to one election every four years when all 72 seats will be contested. But more than 80 per cent of people who responded to the survey opted to keep the current system with 24 seats up for grabs each election year.

Councillor Patrick Harley, council leader, said: "This has been a very worthwhile exercise in asking people how they want to influence decision-making at Dudley Council."

Musical choice

BRIERLEY Hill Musical Theatre Company stages Lerner and Loewe musical My Fair Lady at Brierley Hill Civic Hall from October 10 to 14. It's at 7.15pm with Saturday matinee at 2.15pm. See www.bhmtc.co.uk

Pedestrians had to leap out of way of car

A BANNED motorist with nine previous convictions for driving while disqualified led police on a chase that ended when he ploughed into another car.

A court heard how pedestrians were put in danger by Lane Smith, of Rowley Regis, with many being forced to dive for cover due to his dangerous driving. Other motorists had to take evasive action to avoid collisions during the incident on an August afternoon in the Black Country.

Smith sped off towards Quarry Bank after failing to stop for an unmarked police car while travelling through Cradley Heath at around 4pm on August 18.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that the

27-year-old raced down residential streets at up to 70mph in a 30mph limit zone. Mrs Sati Ruck, prosecuting, said he went through a red light, forced other motorists to swerve out of his way and mounted the footpath forcing pedestrians to jump out of his way.

Fled

A woman trying to cross the road had to dive out of the way before Smith swerved to avoid a male pedestrian during the three minute chase.

He lost control and cannoned into the side of another car at a junction before getting out and running off but was quickly detained.

Mr Jamie Scott, defending, said Smith panicked and tried to get away because he knew he would end

up in prison if caught for motoring offences again.

The lawyer continued: "Motor vehicles are his Achilles' heel. Until now he has been unable to resist getting behind the wheel of vehicles when disqualified from driving. He does have a degree of talent as a mechanic."

Smith, from Uplands Avenue, had been repairing the car on a driveway when asked to move it and had got behind the wheel despite his driving ban.

He admitted dangerous driving, driving while disqualified and having no insurance.

He was jailed for 15 months and banned from driving for four years on release from custody by Recorder Robert Spencer-Bernard, who told him: "You have an appalling record."

Safety issues at care home see rating drop

A CARE home in Halesowen has been rated 'inadequate' by the health watchdog.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) found the home was 'not free from hazards'.

The failings were revealed following the unannounced inspection at the home in June, which can care for up to 32 people.

An overall rating of 'inadequate' - the lowest rating - was handed to Two Gates House in Colley Gate and inspectors said the home needed improvements. This marks a decline since the previous inspection in June 2016 when the care home was rated 'good'.

A report said: "The service was not safe. The provider had not ensured that the premises were free from hazards or that equipment used to support people's mobility was safe for the purpose it was used."

"Risks had not been assessed and managed to reduce the risk of avoidable harm. People's medicines were not managed in a safe way. Recruitment practices did not consistently include required references and health declarations."

Leadership

"People felt safe and staff knew how to report abuse. However people's safety and well-being was compromised because concerns had not always been escalated or acted upon."

The care home was rated as 'requiring improvement' in three categories, while an 'inadequate' rating was also given for leadership.

"The service was not consistently well-led. Audits and monitoring had failed to identify risks associated with the premises, equipment and medicine arrangements. The management style was reactive with poor communication and a lack of risk oversight."

A spokesman for the home: "We have an action plan in place for improvement and we have been working proactively with the local authority. The wellbeing of people in our care is our priority."

"We will continue to work jointly with external professionals, service users and their relatives to make sure the necessary improvements continue to be made."

Aled has audience walking on air



Aled Jones joined the Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir for a performance at Dudley Town Hall

CLASSICAL singer, radio and television presenter Aled Jones wowed the audience at Dudley Town Hall when he appeared alongside a male voice choir from the Black Country.

The talented Welshman, who first found fame as a boy soprano more than 30 years ago, performed with the Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir at Dudley Town Hall

Jones, 40, rose to prominence for his version of 'Walking in the Air', the song from hit Christmas animated film The Snowman. He performed with the male voice choir in Dudley on Saturday as part of a night which raised money for the Mayor of Dudley's

charities. Good Morning Britain presenter and former Chronicle reporter Philippa Tomson compered the evening.

Cash raised will go to Councillor Dave Tyler's three chosen charities - Dudley Mind, the YMCA and Dudley Alzheimer's Society. The 70-strong Gentlemen Songsters perform 20 concerts a year.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



You can bet Rooney baby won't be a Laura

IT seems people will bet on anything these days. Apparently the bookies are now taking bets on what Wayne and Colleen Rooney's imminent baby will be called. Given that their eldest son is called Kai, which sounds like a budget hatchback from South Korea, and that his little brother is called Klay, your guess is as good as mine. But I will venture that Laura isn't among the frontrunners.

IMAGINE, say, a veteran car club wanted to close 100 miles of road, cutting off vast swathes of the West Midlands for several hours. Or maybe a bunch of steam traction-engine fans. What do you imagine the reaction would be? Exactly.

Indeed, I recall that back in 2005 there was a big hoo-ha about a group of Second World War veterans, who were refused permission to commemorate VE Day by marching a few yards along Stourbridge's Enville. Can't have that, can we? Health and safety and all that.

So how did they manage to shut 100 miles of West Midlands roads off for Sunday's Birmingham Velo "cycling festival"?

Now if I really wanted to take part in a 100-mile bike ride, I think I would head for the coast, not Brum, but each to their own.

Actually, the Birmingham Velo appeared to have very little to do with Birmingham. Instead the organisers commandeered long stretches of Sandwell, Dudley, South Staffordshire and north Worcestershire. Apart from starting and finishing in Brum, the second city appeared to be largely absent from the route.

Look, nobody wants to be killjoys, and if the 19th century transport buffs want a large event to support their hobby, good for them. They should also be congratulated for raising a lot of money for charity.

But closing 100 miles of roads for hours on end, and cutting the region in two, does seem excessive for such a niche activity. And while pie-service may have been paid to "consultation" in the way that local councils do, I bet not many of you remember being asked for your opinions before it was given the go-ahead.

Maybe next time somebody wants to organise a huge event to promote cycling in Birmingham, it might, y'know, actually consider holding it in Birmingham. Then again, they seem to be struggling with emptying the dustbins over there at the moment.

TWO-thirds of students who enrol on Wrexham University's marketing degree course drop out within the first year.

Seems rather strange to me. After all, it looks really good in the publicity material.

'Happiness index' on what influences our wellbeing



Mel Brooks, aged 91, would like to be remembered as 'taller, if possible'



Jean-Claude Juncker – some of us were warning about the destiny of the EU



Dennis Skinner MP – is applauded for sticking to his principles

Forget the money, I just want to sleep

A NEW "happiness index" claims the two things which really influence our health and wellbeing – far in excess of mere money – are sex and sleep. Although not, presumably, at the same time.

A READER draws my attention to an advert for a house for sale. According to the estate agent's blurb, it features "four bedrooms, master dressing area, bathroom and guest WC, no chain."

ON a sentimental trip to childhood haunts, I noticed the old meat-pie factory had vanished. I recall that someone in school knew somebody who worked in the pie factory whose thumb was chopped off in the mincing machine – and they never found it. And the strange thing was that, when you repeated this story, you always found that someone else knew someone who worked in another pie factory and he lost a thumb and it was never found. In the entire history of pie factories, has there ever been one which didn't have its own severed-thumb yarn?

IN an interview Hollywood legend Mel Brooks, 91, was asked how he'd like to be remembered. "Taller, if possible," he replied.

BROOKS laments the fact that a movie such as his 1974 Western spoof, Blazing Saddles, liberally littered with Jewish jokes and the N-word, could not be made today. He says political correctness is the death of comedy. Actually, it's worse than that. Blazing Saddles was not just a comedy. It was a sharp satire on racist attitudes in small-town America and it shone a light in dark places. PC is the enemy not only of comedy but of satire, comment, discussion and progress.

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



AT London's Hyde Park Corner, a punch-up broke out between Trans-Exclusionary Radical Feminists, or TERFs, and transgender campaigners including a group called SistersUncut. One of those hurt was a "gender critical feminist" who is a trans-woman and a humanist-funer celebrant. Doesn't life seem awfully quiet out here in the provinces?

I RECENTLY reported the suggestion that owners of draughty houses might be forced to bring them up to modern insulation standards before being allowed to sell them. A reader says this is an issue which affects some of the grandest houses in the land. As he puts it: "Even Chequers has draughts."

CHEQUERS. Draughts. Yes it took a while.

A READER complains glumly about being nicked for speeding in Wales. For the first time in more than 40 years of driving, covering more than a million miles, he has penalty points on his licence. He is philosophical about it but I sympathise. Wales is a happy hunting ground for speed traps hidden in known "hotspots." Some of these are found on the approaches to remote villages where the 30mph limit may extend far into open country. Locals are aware of them but it's easy for outsiders leaving the village to believe the limit no longer applies. A few 30mph repeater signs in these areas would prevent a lot of speeding offences. But that's not the idea

is it, boyos? They call it enforcing the law. I call it a tax on visitors.

HINDSIGHT is easy. But some of us were warning about the destiny of the EU long before the latest speech by Jean-Claude Juncker describing his hellish vision of a single-state EU with one president, centralised control of economies, the euro for all member nations and a fully-fledged EU defence union. There is nothing new in this. The choice in last year's referendum was never between Brexit and the EU status quo, because the EU is not standing still. It is moving toward something we want no part of. As I wrote a few days before the referendum: "What keeps me awake at night is the super-state it will become. Brussels has been careful not to use the F-word lately but the old dream of a federal EU, with existing nations reduced to canton-sized units such as Mercia and Catalonia, is still alive and well in the corridors of power. And so, as some British generals and security experts have pointed out, is the EU's old dream of its own armed forces." True then, truer now.

DENNIS Skinner votes against his Labour party on Europe and is applauded for sticking to his principles. Jacob Rees Mogg speaks out against abortion and is applauded for sticking to his principles. Have you noticed how much easier it is to applaud someone's principles when they are exactly the same as your own?

INCIDENTALLY, if you're thinking of emailing me about the German motorist who asked you for directions to Luger-Barooga (Loughborough), it is ancient.

TALKING POINT



No thought control, just leave the kids alone

'BOYS will be boys', or so the Ordinary Boys song goes. And girls will be girls.

And why should they – or their parents – be made to feel bad because they have slipped into 'gender stereotypes'?

There are people who would have us worry about this. So much so that not only are there action groups to prevent our little ones being led by misguided parents into this gender trap but now leading retailers have stepped in.

At the forefront of this 'gender neutral' drive is High Street giant John Lewis. The store is no longer restricting children by giving them labels – clothes labels that is. From now on their clothes will not be divided along gender lines and labels will read 'girls and boys' or 'boys and girls'.

It is also introducing a new neutral collection for boys and girls. A spokeswoman said they did not want to 'reinforce gender stereotypes'.

Have they not noticed that a lot of our teenagers are already wearing gender neutral clothes, baggy t-shirts and sports wear with trainers a prerequisite!

Meanwhile a school in east Sussex has changed its uniform policy so all new Year 7 students must wear trousers. The headmaster said pupils had been questioning why boys had different uniform to girls so they decided to have the same.

What message does that send to the young girls? Why should girls have to look like boys? I notice they didn't decide that everyone should wear skirts.

Action group, Let Clothes be Clothes, has been set up to persuade UK retailers to rethink how they market children's clothing.

As a new, impressionable and nervous mother I absorbed such rhetoric on 'good parenting' like a sponge.

Included in my son's sizeable toy box was a toy cleaning trolley while my daughter was taken to football and dressed in cool denim.

Naturally she also wore some of my son's hand-me downs, like generations before me. Maybe we have always been gender neutral we just didn't shout about it.

So does my now teenage son ever pick up the Hoover? Not likely! He likes action films, enjoys sports and mostly wears black. While my daughter, despite my best efforts, threw herself into pink, fluffy and Disney for many years.

So do I feel like I have failed? I most certainly do not. I am proud of the individuals my children have grown up to be.

In the words of Pink Floyd: 'We don't need no thought control... Leave them kids alone!'

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Quite right to feel grumpy over Velo

DAVID Viner, in The Chronicle, encouraged us to go out and cheer on the Velo Birmingham riders and suggested that the event would bring many positive benefits to the region and no-one should be grumpy about it.

This shows the classic arrogance of those who believe that, because they claim they are pursuing their chosen pastime in aid of charity, it justifies spoiling the enjoyment of a vastly larger number of people whose own plans for the day are disrupted.

Of course Birmingham Council supported this event because they suffered minimal road closures and gained lots of revenue from the entrants but it was left to the rest of us in the Black Coun-

try, Staffordshire and Worcestershire to suffer the major disruption.

I would be interested to know how the money which has been raised for charities compares with the cost of organising the event, even before taking into account the substantial losses incurred by traders prevented from carrying out their businesses and those forced to travel huge additional distances to escape from the ring of road closures around the Black Country. This included front-line NHS workers attempting to reach their jobs at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, which is one of the charities the event is supposed to support.

Anyone who wanted to visit friends

or relatives to the east, west or south of the Black Country or spend the day in Kinver, Stourport, Bewdley or at the Malvern Autumn how had no chance of doing so. This is in addition to a number of sporting events and children's parties which had to be cancelled.

All this because a bunch of people wanted to go for a ride on their bicycles. I think there are an awful lot of people who have a perfect right to feel grumpy. It has also been commented that it was 'only for one day'. BEWARE, the organisers are already saying that they want to make this an annual event.

DAVID ANSCOMBE
Wollaston

Cyclists can dress to be better seen

AFTER an accident in which a woman lost her life, the argument about cars and cyclists has reared its head again. It seems as if the advice being given out is for motorists to take care when opening their car doors.

But what about the cyclists?

Each week, when we are making our way to do our shopping, we pass a group of middle aged to elderly cyclists at Summerhill, near Kingswinford. Most are wearing black. Why wear black cycling bottoms or shorts? Black clothing with reflective stripes is, in my opinion, useless. The first view of a cyclist to following vehicles is the part of the body on the saddle - black?

And do not forget helmets. The head hits the ground hard when you fall off a bike.

PETER COLE
Kingswinford

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
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Moving museum and gallery is a mistake

WHATEVER planet is Dudley Council on?

They want to transform Dudley town to the tune of £41 million, but why bother when they ripped part of the heart out of this very same town when they closed the museum and art gallery?

By moving this attraction to the new archives in Tip-ton Road they deprived local people of a very much-loved facility.

This seemed another ploy to move the 'town centre' to another area, just as they seem to claim Merry Hill belongs to Brierley Hill. I really don't get it.

MRS L SHELTON
Dudley

Thanks for support at pub event

COULD we just say a very big thank you to everyone who attended our fun day at The Crown, Oldswinford, held on August Bank Holiday Sunday in aid of the Mary Stevens Hospice.

This is our thirteenth year of holding the event and we broke all records, raising nearly £30,000 for this worthy charity.

In total, your contributions have raised around £150,000 since we started the fundraising and for that we can't thank you enough.

We would also like to thank you to all of the neighbours of the pub for their patience and understanding on what can be quite a noisy occasion.

All we do is for a very worthy cause and we really appreciate your support.

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Arnie says 'I'll be bake' for cake better than Hollywood



AB Cakes owner Paz Heer, and cakemaker Nune Paruryan

IT takes a lot to impress Hollywood legend Arnold Schwarzenegger – but cake-maker extraordinaire Paz Heer did just that.

The cakemaker from Wolverhampton-based AB Cakes produced a Predator-based cake for the A-listers' visit to Birmingham. And Schwarzenegger, the star of the Predator movie, was so taken with the impressive cake that he told Mr Heer he had 'outdone Hollywood'.

Mr Heer, aged 36, from Essington

Report by Fiona Smith

has previously designed cakes for stars including Floyd Mayweather, Anthony Joshua and Eddie Hall.

The movie Predator was chosen as the theme for Arnie's visit to Birmingham, and also Leeds, to mark it being released 30 years ago.

Mr Heer said: "As soon as I got the confirmation I was doing the cake I watched it again for research – I knew I had to come up with something different."

He spent five days slaving over the

cake after redesigning it 'five or six' times. He said he had to turn away other business in order to get it finished on time.

The design was a mix of sponge tiers, icing and also a Predator mask. It included UV blood, a mistmaker and lasers for a stunning effect.

Mr Heer added: "I must have watched it 10 times in my life and I've grown up with [Schwarzenegger]. He's just an inspiration and meeting him was so cool."

Seventy-year-old Schwarzenegger appeared before 1,000 people at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole last



The audience at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole during the evening



'Get to the chopper' – Arnie says, ready for the event

week for an Experience With event. In his hour-long chat, hosted by presenter Charlie Webster, the Austrian-born actor told of his rags to riches story from his beginnings as a body building champion to Hollywood actor and of course, his time as Governor of California.

Tickets for the black tie dinner event were on sale for between £145 and £375. However, there were some a small number of tickets available at £499 (or £749 for two people) for those who wanted a handshake and a photograph with the actor. And 20 people could pay £999 for a meet-and-greet

chat with the star as well as the photograph at the end of the night.

He told the audience how filming Predator took its toll on him with the 100F heat in the Mexican jungle and how he eventually ended up in hospital. At the end of the night Arnie was given a machete to cut the Predator cake.

Birmingham was one of just two UK dates, the other being in Leeds. It is the second time Arnie has been in Birmingham having appeared at the ICC in January last year. Regarding a third visit, he did promise British fans 'I'll be back!'.
A THREE-VEHICLE crash which killed a woman in Dudley has sparked an investigation by council bosses over road safety.

Fatal crash sparks probe by council

A THREE-VEHICLE crash which killed a woman in Dudley has sparked an investigation by council bosses over road safety.

Vikki Jones, aged 30, died at the scene of the three-car smash in Wood Road, Lower Gornal, on Friday night. An 11-year-old girl, believed to be her daughter, was taken to hospital with arm injuries.

The fatal accident, which took place close to Ms Jones' home, has sparked anger from residents who claim their calls for traffic calming measures have been ignored. Dudley Council says it is now investigating.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "Our thoughts are with the family of the woman who lost her life."

"The circumstances of the accident are currently being investigated by police, however, as with all serious traffic incidents we will be carrying out our own investigation."

Detective Sergeant Paul Hughes said: "We are trying to establish exactly what happened, and are appealing to anyone who witnessed the collision, and hasn't yet spoken to us, to contact us."

A 21-year-old man arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving was released on police bail.

Design award for jewellery graduate

A GRADUATE from Birmingham City University's school of jewellery has won a design award.

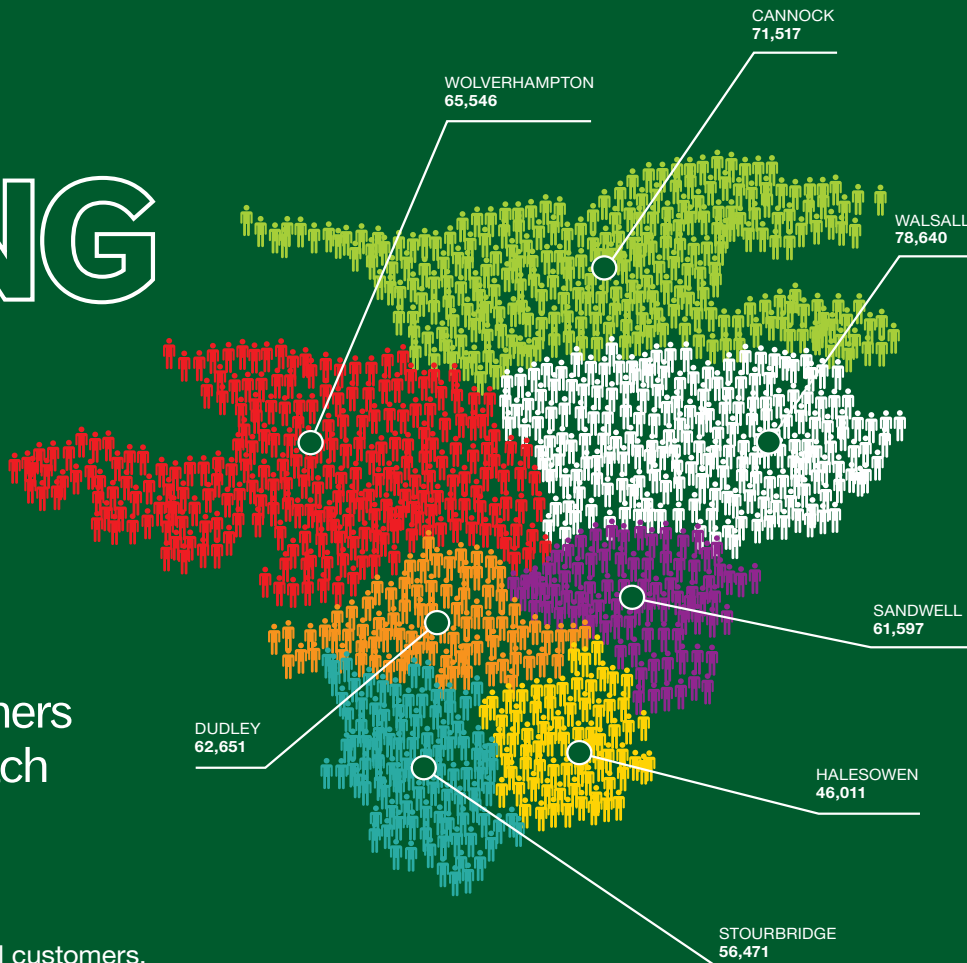
Sophie Lomax, aged 27, won Professional Jeweller's young jewellery designer of the year after she impressed judges with her designs, including a Valentine's range for 77 Diamonds. She graduated in 2012.,

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Hundreds at funeral of stabbing victim Ryan, 24

HUNDREDS of mourners gathered for the funeral of popular local footballer Ryan Passey, who was stabbed to death in a Stourbridge night-club.

The 24-year-old's funeral was held at St James Church in Wollaston on Friday.

Family, friends and former teammates from Wrens Nest and Stourbridge Athletics football clubs carried his coffin into the church. The casket was draped with a Stourbridge Athletic shirt, while other football shirts lined the entrance to the church.

The hour-long service was led by Rev Nick Kaleniuk, who read out tributes from friends and family.

Songs

Pictures from Ryan's life were displayed on a big screen inside the church as songs were played that had been selected by his best friend Jordan Poole, his father Mark Poole, Ryan's mother and father Gill Taylor and Ade Passey, and step-father Phil Taylor.

Lukas Graham's song Funeral opened the service as people filled the church. The acoustic version of Charlie Puth's See You Again was played to pictures of Ryan and Jordan's nights out and holidays abroad.

Mr Poole, who had known Ryan since they were four, tearfully spoke about their bond. He said: "I always

thought the day I would be standing and speaking about Ryan would be at his wedding. We rarely spent a day apart. He played football how he lived his life with passion, loyalty and care for the people around him. In the future my children will know everything about him. You were my brother, my best friend, my hero, Ryan."



The coffin draped with a football shirt



Ryan Passey died on a night out



St James Church was filled with mourners for the funeral of Ryan Passey

Sam Smith's Lay Me Down was played as family pictures of Ryan growing up were shown, while a video of Ryan and Jordan singing 'every little thing gonna be all right' from Three Little Birds by Bob Marley was played at the end of the service.

Family members went on to Stourbridge Crematorium, while others

headed to the Raven pub in Brierley Hill to raise a glass in his memory.

Ryan, from Quarry Bank, died after being stabbed at Chicago's nightclub in the town centre.

Kobe Murray, aged 19, of The Broadway, Dudley, has pleaded not guilty to murder and is due to stand trial in January.

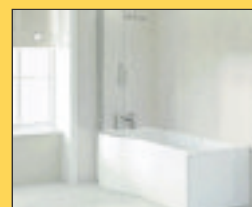


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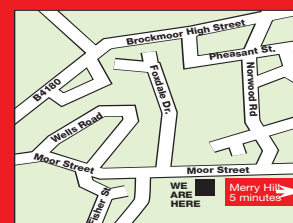
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Brum's big wheel and rink get cold shoulder

TWO major festive tourist attractions will not be heading to Birmingham this year, council chiefs have confirmed.

The big wheel and ice rink, which are normally set up outside Birmingham Rep in Centenary Square, have been cancelled. This is a result of the ongoing £10 million re-vamp of the square, means no space for the Christmas events.

Bosses have been unable to find an alternative site for the attractions in the city centre.

A Birmingham City Council spokesman said: "Because of the major refurbishment of Centenary Square, both of officers and the operator have been unable to find an alternative site large enough to accommodate the ice rink and big wheel."

The wheel offered spectacular views over the city.

Work on the Centenary Square project is not due to be finished until next summer. It will have a pool with water jets installed and will also be able to host major events with 43 'lighting columns' illuminating the area at night.

The German Market - which attracts thousands of visitors to the city centre every year - will go ahead as usual in Victoria Square and down New Street from November 12 to Christmas Eve.

Hedgehog rescue day makes its point



Gavin Williamson and Joan Lockley with a prickly friend

SOUTH Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson attended the annual West Midlands Hedgehog Rescue open day.

The charity was established by Joan Lockley, from Cheslyn Hay, and her work was recognised by the International Fund for Animal Welfare's Animal Action Award in 2015. She has also been nominated for the Black Country 100 Masters for her work rescuing hedgehogs.

The day aimed to raise money to support the care of rescued hedgehogs as well as increase awareness on how to help them.

Kinver MP Mr Williamson said: "I really enjoyed attending the West Midlands Rescue Open Day again.

"This is an event I always look forward to as I am always so humbled by the work Joan Lockley and her team do to rescue, and care for, injured hedgehogs."

The Conservative MP added: "It's amazing to see that the charity is going from strength to strength, and I hope that Joan's enthusiasm and warmth helps inspire others who are passionate about caring for animals."

Football tournament scores more cash

THE organisers of a historic amateur football competition have handed over £10,000 to Beacon Centre for the Blind.

The JW Hunt Cup has run every season since 1926 and has raised more than £330,000 for the charity over the years.

It features clubs from across the West Midlands and each year the final is held at Molineux. Alex Hamil MBE, cup president, said: "We are delighted to be able to present this cheque for £10,000 to the Beacon Centre. Beacon is a charity very close to our hearts.

"We are very proud to have been supporting the same, incredibly worthwhile charity for 91 years."

Gary Moulder, head of finance at Beacon, added: "We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support from the JW Hunt Cup. Without their support we would not be able to provide the services and care that local people living with sight loss have come to depend on."

Cyclist deaths and injuries fall by fifth after police blitz

THE number of cyclists killed or seriously injured on West Midlands roads has dropped by a fifth over the last year.

This follows an initiative by police to protect cyclists from dangerous overtaking.

Operation Close Pass was the idea of West Midlands Police who investigated low-cost ways of preventing collisions caused by motorists driving too close to cyclists.

They were the first force in the country to use undercover officers in plain clothes to look out for dangerous activity in this area.

Helmet

Dashcam and helmet footage from the public is also passed to officers to help convict the worst offenders.

Since the operation was launched last year, there has been a 20 per cent reduction in cyclists killed or seriously injured on the roads.

More than 175 drivers were pulled over and given a lesson in safe overtaking and 350 prosecutions were made using video evidence from the public. Also, police cyclists radio details of 'close-pass' drivers for colleagues to pull over.

Soul star Jaki leads diversity celebration

SOUL star Jaki Graham is to lead a weekend celebration of diversity. The singer will headline the Wolverhampton Black History Month launch event tomorrow (Friday), before appearing as one of the star performers at Wolves Pride the following day.

Wolves Pride is the largest event of its kind in the city's history. It will take place from noon to 9pm on Wulfruna Street, the Civic Centre ceremonial car park, St Peter's car park and the pedestrian area outside the University's Ambika Paul building.

The sell-out Black History Month launch event at the Arena Theatre will feature a hot African-Caribbean buffet before a series of talks and performances. It is the start of a four-week celebration of black history.

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The Wearwell racing team celebrate the 1953 Tour of Britain win



The entrance to Wearwell's the Colliery Road factory



A devastating factory fire could not stop the wheels of industry



Former boss George Waine



Founder Henry Clarke

Iconic cycling brand is the beast that refuses to die

A WOLVERHAMPTON cycling company is refusing to die after a history of family feuds, corruption, economic ruin, devastating fires and generations of scandal.

Thanks to the great-great grandson of one of its founders, the Wearwell name lives on.

It was one of the first bicycle manufacturers in the country, going on to export tens of thousands of bikes around the world. A company team even won the prestigious Tour of Britain race in 1953.

However, it seemed the name had been lost forever when the company closed in 1975, a victim of the catastrophic recession and post-war boom in car sales.

Clothes

But now, 150 years since the business was launched, the Wearwell name has been resurrected. Alex Joynson, aged 32, and his business partner Will Laughton, 30, have started a company selling cycling clothes under the Wearwell brand. They plan to expand into cycle accessories and possibly even manufacture bicycles again one day. Alex, whose family lived in Finchfield, said: "Wearwell really is the beast that refuses

MEMORY LANE

By Marion Brennan

to die. It really resonates with me that we are bringing back a brand that was part of the Wolverhampton fabric."

The brand's rich history goes back to 1856 when Wolverhampton blacksmith Henry Clarke, stopping over in Paris on his way back from the Crimean War, came across a wooden wheeled contraption he learned was called a bicycle. The following year he founded the Cogent Cycle Company which made and exported bicycle wheels to France. Business boomed as his five sons – Tom, George, William, Jack and Henry – came on board, and it remained a thriving family company until Henry's death in 1889 aged 56.

Eldest son Tom was appointed as successor to the fury of his brothers, who mutinied and threw him out. Tom ended up in Manchester where he set up a rival business, Express Cycle Company while the remaining brothers founded Wearwell.

By the early 1900s the business was producing more than 500 machines each week, and exporting in tens of thousands. But it emerged that their trusted company secretary had been plundering the profits and by the time the deceit

had been discovered by William Clarke, it was too late to save the firm and in 1911 it went into liquidation.

William Clarke bought another local cycling business, which he revitalised and used to reintroduce the Wearwell name to the market. After his death in 1922, Wearwell was sold to George Waine – Alex Joynson's great-great-grandfather – and his cousin Jack Waine. The pair gifted a share of the company to each of their sons, Theo and Vincent, who later took the reins and took it from strength to strength. Even a large fire at the factory could not stop them.

The company started to look beyond Europe to India, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Burma, Siam and China. During the Second World War, Wearwell was forced to scale back and a further fire stopped production until after the war.

Again the business bounced back and by 1950 had moved from Darlington Street and opened bases at the New Griffin Works in Colliery Road and Great Brickkiln Street. It then moved to Alverley in Shropshire where it was eventually sold to businessman Martin Wells. He in turn sold the business to Lincolnshire-based Elswick-Hopper Cycle Company which moved production to Humberside but as the recession pounded the UK the company closed in 1975.



New owners Alex Joynson and Will Laughton



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Peaky Blinders returns to TV

THE fourth series of Birmingham-set 1920s gangster drama Peaky Blinders returns to BBC TV next month.

Filming began for the new season in March when star Cillian Murphy, who plays Tommy Shelby, was spotted on set at the Black Country Living Museum.

Joining him is Charlotte Riley, who plays aristocratic widow May Carleton and the production will also include the return of Tom Hardy, who is Charlotte Riley's real life husband.

Also in the new series will be top actors Adrien Brody and Game of Thrones star Aiden Gillen, who played 'Littlefinger' in the fantasy blockbuster

Council has brought back 29 of its redundant staff

ONE in 12 council workers who were made redundant over a two-year period at a Black Country authority were later re-hired.

A total of 29 members of staff were brought back to either work part-time or full-time at Dudley Council, despite having received redundancy pay-offs.

One worker received a pay-off of more than £60,000 only then to be brought back on a casual

basis. Two others received redundancy packages of more than £30,000 and nine workers got more than £20,000.

Six of the workers returned to authority within just three months of leaving.

Of the 29 who returned to the authority after losing their jobs, 17 were given permanent roles while 12 came back on a casual basis.

A report showed one worker who received a salary of £38,400 was given £26,500 in redundancy money before then returning with a sal-

ary of £27,100. Another who was paid £31,900 received £23,600 redundancy package before returning three months later on a wage of £13,200.

Dudley Council made 326 staff redundant between 2014 and 2016 as it was hit hard by budget cuts.

The authority said it was the role that was made redundant rather than the employee, and some were offered the chance to return when circumstances changed.

Car vandals go on the rampage

DOZENS of cars were vandalised during a 12-hour crime spree in a Black Country borough which left a 'trail of destruction'.

Vandals smashed up 32 vehicles with a baseball bat whilst driving through streets in the Tipton and Brandhall areas of Sandwell.

Police chiefs have condemned the 'terrible incident' and are appealing for help to trace the suspects who are still at large.

It comes as reports came from the community about similar vandalism that has taken place in recent weeks – with one car being torched. The incident took place between 7pm on September 18 and 7am the following day.

Sandwell's Safer 6 campaign returns



Firefighter Alan Malpass with Rhys Thomas, 5, from Cradley

A CRIME campaign launched with an action-packed open day for all the family at a fire station in the Black Country.

Sandwell's autumn Safer 6 campaign is all about partner organisations targeting their efforts and providing extra reassurance during the darker nights, fireworks and bonfire season – a time when crime and anti-social behaviour can rise.

The Safer Sandwell Partnership campaign, now in its eighth year, runs for six weeks and includes a focus week for each of the six towns in the borough.

Mayor of Sandwell Councillor Ahmadul Haque MBE officially launched the campaign at a special open day at Haden Cross Fire Station in Halesowen on Saturday.

Visitors were able to get crime prevention advice from West Midlands Police and Sandwell Crime Prevention Panel, watch a chip pan fire demonstration by West Midlands Fire Service and check out Sandwell Council's Youth Bus promoting young people's services.

There was also music from Black Country Radio and displays on how to get fit and active with Sandwell Leisure Trust. Attractions included face painting, a bouncy castle, dance, a raffle, refreshments and much more.

Each town, from Oldbury to West Bromwich, will have a focus week during the campaign.

The fire service's Jason Jew said: "This campaign is all about working together."

Links between school and firm are praised

A BLACK Country school has been working in collaboration with a construction company to forge a path for young people with learning disabilities.

The Westminster School, in Rowley Regis, has worked with the Supported Internship Programme at Interserve as part of a pilot to identify roles where students who attend the school would be able to work.

They identified roles in Facilities Services throughout the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme in Sandwell. Two pupils who were successful, as part of the internship pilot in 2016/2017 and have been offered a Supported Apprenticeship with Interserve as part of a national Department for Education (DfE) Pacesetter pilot.

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Beauty flogger Zoella and 'SprinkleofGlitter' Louise Pentland



COMPETITION

It's the World – but not as we know it

THE world's biggest digital stars are being brought together under one roof for the first time in a new live show.

The multi-million pound production makes its debut at Birmingham's Genting Arena. HelloWorld is to launch on Saturday, October 28 and Sunday, October 29 with tickets on sale via helloworldlive.com

Chronicle readers have the chance to win free tickets as 15 pairs are up for grabs for the Sunday show.

From the creatives behind the MTV VMAs, this world-first event brings together the biggest digital stars on the planet – headliners include Zoella, PointlessBlog, Joe Sugg, Caspar Lee, Rose & Rosie, Jim Chapman, Louise Pentland, Tyler Oakley, KSI, Marcus Butler, Oli White, Jake Mitchell, JanaVlogs, Katie Pix, LookingforLewys,

Lucy and Lydia, Jack Maynard, Mark Ferris, Niki and Sammy, The Shades, Josh Pieters, New Hope Club and more will be ready to share a mind-blowing live experience.

Where the online world collides with the real world, guests arrive into the living, breathing space of HelloWorld and take a stroll down Main Street where the sun is rising over the town, the day begins and the town comes alive. The biggest stars in Social Media are getting up close and personal with their fans.

There are live music performances, games, bake-offs, parades, a fashion show, a Giant Arcade Machine, signings and talks, even weather forecasts! Yes, HelloWorld even has its own weather!

Suddenly the sun goes down,



YouTube vlogger Casper Lee



HOW TO ENTER

To be in with a chance of winning a pair of tickets just answer the following.

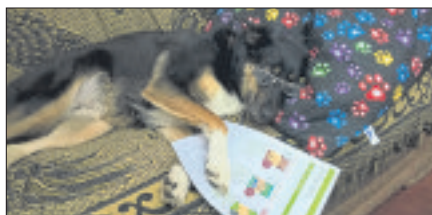
Name one of the digital stars

Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and email address to Hello World Competition, Chronicle editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday, October 5. Usual rules apply.

* Tickets for Sunday only

there's a thunderstorm and the town is bathed in moonlight as the evening entertainment begins on the main stage, a 30ft high projection mapped Emoji House! The HelloWorld DJ provides the soundtrack as guests cheer along to games and live interviews with the stars. The night closes with a giant house party.

AND THE ANIMALS CAME IN BY THE DOZENS



Checking the news – Margo Landers' dog Shannon



Joyce Scriven's cat Tess is right on cue for the snooker



Worn out – Richard Ecrement's Milo and Max



Gary Fletcher's dog Dylan loves going to the seaside

Now it's framing cats and dogs!

WELL it's raining cats and dogs – photographs that is.

Last week The Chronicle launched its Animal Crackers photo competition and already readers are sending in a host of cute, quirky and arty pictures of their pets.

Sleeping dogs lying, purr-fect kittens and fluffy bunnies are all dropping in – and we can't get enough of them. We want more. Send us a picture of your beloved pet and as well as the



chance to see your family pet in print, you could also win a £100 cash prize. It can be any animal from a dog, to a horse or even a spider as long as it

is a pet belonging to you or a member of your family.

Our Chronicle judges are simply looking for interesting pictures. We will select 10 of our favourite pictures and then it is up to our readers to decide which picture deserves the cash prize.

To enter email the images to sue.attwater@expressandstar.co.uk and let us have your name and details, including the area you are from and a little bit of information about your pet.

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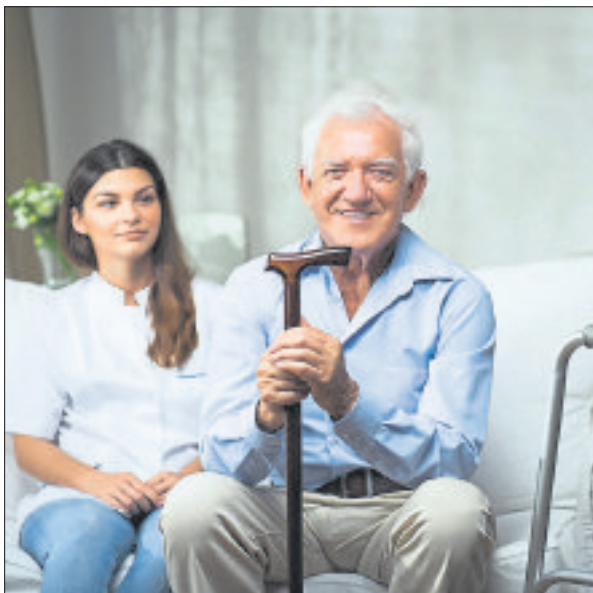
Dudley Council is offering help to Dudley borough residents who need to adapt their homes to better meet their needs.

Anyone who is struggling with daily life in their home can ask for help. If a member of the household of any age is having difficulties bathing, getting upstairs, even getting into the home, help is on offer to adapt the property to better meet these needs.

Dudley Home Improvement Service, part of Dudley Council, offers the adaptations package. Grants are available to pay for adaptations, along with an adaptations package of advice and practical support. This consists of an expert recommendation, support to design and build the adaptation from technical officers and council approved builders. All work is overseen by the council, so there is no hassle and no stress to people.

Home adaptations for independence are available to people who own their own homes or are private rental tenants. Council tenants can already request adaptations to their homes through the council. The aim is to help people stay independent in their homes. Typical adaptations include handrails, stair rails, ramps, level access showers, stair lifts, through-the-floor lifts, even home extensions to provide extra sleeping or bathing facilities.

An initial assessment by an occupational therapist will take place and this will establish the type of adaptation needed to suit a



Anyone who is struggling should ask for help from the adaptations service

person's needs and to help them stay independent and safe in their home.

The service offers adaptations to people of any age. Full grant funding is always provided for adaptations needed for children under 18.

Alan Lunt, Dudley Council's strategic director of place said: "Anyone who is finding it difficult to manage in their home, or has a member of their

household who is struggling should ask for help from the adaptations service. Lots of support is on offer, along with grant funding to pay for home adaptations for many people. It's all about keeping people safe and independent in their homes and making life more liveable."

Contact Dudley Home Improvement Service on 0300 555 0055.

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Home adaptations for independence

Struggling in your home? Are you or a member of the family having difficulties bathing, getting upstairs, or even getting into your home?

If you are a homeowner or private rental tenant and need assistance with adapting your property to better meet the needs of a member of your household, we can help.

Dudley Council offers grants to pay for adaptations*, uses reputable, approved tradespeople and can arrange all works for you.

*Dependant on criteria



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Max keen to talk at celebration

Wordsley M TG

THE September meeting was opened by vice-chairman Ann Birchell who welcomed members and visitors. Minutes of the August meeting, prepared by secretary Liz Moseley, was signed and the treasurer's report was available for perusal.

Liz gave details of the outing on October 2 to Worcester porcelain factory and museum followed by a tea.

The Federation Report included the day of autumn celebrations on October 11, at 10.30am, at Wollaston Village Hall, with a talk by Max Keen followed by a fish and chip lunch and concluding with Alison Snowdon giving valuations on items brought in by members.

On October 18 Pat Hadley with host a coffee morning at 10.30am. All are welcome.

Barbara Taylor gave details of Brierley Hill Musical Theatre Company performing 'My Fair Lady'. Seats for the Saturday matinee October 14 will be booked.

Ann gave details of the Community Centre Christmas Bazaar on December 9 which will be supported by the guild with a chocolate 'Prize Every Time' tombola. The Harvest table was opened for sale of goods brought in by the members, which was very well supported. There followed a quiz arranged by Ann Birchell.

The next Guild meeting is on October 16 at 10am. Adam Williams will talk about the crucial work of the 'Air Ambulance'.

Sales table produces bumper business

Silence in memory of former member

THE September 11 guild meeting was held at Kingswinford Community Centre.

After welcoming members, including one visitor, chairman Enid Fennel asked members observe a short silence in memory of a former long-serving member who recently died.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved and duly signed.

Names were taken for the visit to The Beacon Centre for afternoon tea.

Members planning to go to Coventry for the national carol service were asked if they would like to go by coach.

It was agreed that it would be easier to use the coach rather than go free by public transport but thereby incurring the effort the making one's own way from the station.

Kingswinford Guild

Ena, June and Marion volunteered to do the washing up. Joyce thanked members for their kindness and concern during the past few months, but especially most recently.

The business being completed, a short Harvest Festival Service was held, followed by a Ploughman's Supper prepared by the committee. Afterwards there was a bring and buy sale.

Raffle prizes were won by Chris Moy and Brenda Greenaway.

Sue Wilson was thanked for bringing a pot plant for the chairman's table, which she donated as an extra raffle prize.

The next meeting will be on country humour. Visitors are always welcome.

Grange (E) Guild

CHAIRMAN Chris Holton presided over the September 5 meeting at Grange Court, Stourbridge, welcoming 28 members to the annual Harvest Super.

She read the minutes from the previous meeting which were accepted as a true record and duly signed.

Treasurer Jill Attwood gave her financial report and secretary Jean Williams reminded members about the national carol service being held in Coventry Cathedral on December 12. A coach has been booked.

Following this short business meeting members enjoyed a buffet supper. Two courses were prepared and served by committee members and their helpers. The evening was voted a huge success and a vote of thanks was given to the committee.

The raffle was drawn and several members won prizes. The sales table had a wide variety of harvest goods and was sold.

At the next guild meeting on October 3 there will be a talk about Albrington Pottery.

Speaker a hive of information

THE Dudley Rheumatoid Arthritis Support Group met as usual on the first Thursday of the month at the King William pub on the Pensnett Road, from 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

Richard from the new Dudley Archive Centre was speaker and proved to be very entertaining with a hive of information on the work carried out there along with its im-

Rheumatoid Arthritis Support Group

portance to the community. He invited and expertly fielded many questions.

The next meeting is on October 5 with entertainment from Merry Maggie. For more information call 01902 676136 or 885734.

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GET SAVING ON ENERGY BILLS IN PREPARATION FOR WINTER WITH DUDLEY'S BIG SWITCH

With autumn soon taking its hold Dudley Borough residents are being encouraged to get saving on their energy bills before winter bites.

Dudley Council is urging people to sign up to its latest Big Switch energy switching scheme. The scheme offers residents market leading deals on energy which are not available elsewhere. Residents who have registered at previous auctions have saved up to £300 on their home energy bills, so it's well worth getting registered.

The Big Switch brings people together to reduce their energy bills by switching their energy suppliers collectively. The more people who register the better the deals on offer, as it is based upon the bulk buying concept.

The deals offered by the Big Switch are not available elsewhere, and it has been recently reported that up to sixty percent of top energy deals are not available on the standard switching sites. To get the best deal it is well worth registering.

In recent month's five of the 'Big six' energy providers have announced price hikes for people on standard variable rate tariffs, with British Gas announcing a 12.5 percent rise in its electricity prices. The majority of people are on standard variable tariffs (sixty-six percent according to Ofgem) and can potentially therefore make significant savings by signing up to switch.

Since the scheme began in June 2013 the collective savings made by borough residents has topped half a million pounds.

The latest Big Switch has launched this week. To take advantage of the cut price rates offered, people are encouraged to call 0300 555 2345 to register, or you can register online at www.dudley.gov.uk/bigswitch. People will need to have their current tariff details and fuel usage (shown in the most recent bill) to hand.



The scheme is open to all householders, including people living in rented accommodation, those with a prepayment meter and people with a fuel debt of up to £500 or less.

Cllr Les Jones, cabinet member for housing, said:

"Our Big Switch energy auctions have proved extremely popular over the last few years with thousands signing up to take part and saving hundreds of pounds on their home energy bills. The deals offered through the scheme are market leading, so people will be getting real value for money. With winter on its way now is the ideal time to be registering to save, as well as keeping warm and well at home."

To find out more call Dudley Council Plus on **0300 555 2345** or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/bigswitch.



Save cash on your energy bills

Sign up to Dudley's Big Switch and we will get energy companies to compete to win you as a customer by offering you the very best market leading deals, not available elsewhere.

At previous Big Switches people have saved up to **£300** on their gas and electricity bills.

Register by **9 Oct 2017**

Simply call Dudley Council Plus on
0300 555 2345

Or you can also register online and find out more information at www.dudley.gov.uk/bigswitch



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TRACY, dark eyed brunette, 39, outgoing, down to earth, fit and active has much to offer someone special. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428783 ☺**GEORGINA**, 46yrs, sophisticated professional lady (teacher), quite firm but kind! Interested in finding out more? I am interested to chat to you so call me today. Text Only. Box: 4151593 ☺**JANE**, curly blonde, 47, hazel eyes, real zest for life, likes nights in/out, travel, seeks tall loving well built guy who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428757 ☺**SASKA**, kind hearted Asian lady, single and still living with family so seeking very discreet relationship with strong minded man. I am 29yrs but like mature experienced men. Text Only. Box: 4047094 ☺**FRANCESCA** 50s, lively blue eyed blonde, many interests, WLTm similar young at heart romantic male for amazing fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428755 ☺**MIA**, attractive married lady from Birmingham are, looking to meet a discreet gent, any age, any area for fun times. I am 49yrs old but look younger. Text Only. Box: 4079581 ☺**DAWN**, attractive, easygoing, WLTm mature male for fun loving no strings romance. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428417 ☺**TINA**, 47yrs, GSOH and good figure with average looks. I want a similar man, GSOH looks unimportant. Age is but a number. I have no car but can accommodate. Text Only. Box: 4145368 ☺**MARY** 46, shy curvy brunette looking for someone to be a good fun friend, to laugh with and love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428073 ☺**JANE**, new to area, hoping to meet an older gent. I am 38yrs, brunette with boyish leggy figure. N/S with GSOH. I've a good job and small flat which I own. Text Only. Box: 4099268 ☺**SOPHIA** young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box No: 413399**SUSANNA**, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428661 ☺**TAKE** a chance on me. Beryl, honest black lady. Seeking a gent 50-75 ish. who will treat me with respect. I will be respectful to you, mutual fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428809 ☺**ATTRACTIVE** lady, 45yrs, loves animals, music, socialising. If you have similar interests then call or text me. Lets meet up and spend time together. Looks unimportant, must have GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428811 ☺**JANE**, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**MICHELLE**, 44yrs, attractive lady, great company, hoping to meet mature gent 50+ for loving relationship. ACA/Text answered. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428803 ☺**EMILY**, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**SUE**, attractive lady, genuine with many interests. I'm attractive with feminine curves. If you are a caring loving man under 70yrs call me for good times. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428801 ☺**TAMIKA**, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 422365

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SAMANTHA, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 425979**SUSAN**, articulate interesting lady, 60yrs, loves countryside and music. Hoping to meet a genuine man of any age. All calls and texts answered. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428797 ☺**HARRIETT** 42yrs, blue eyed brunette with long lets and decent curves! Looking for a cheeky adventurous man for fun only. I live alone so can accommodate and can travel. Discretion assured. ACA. Give me a try. Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 426205**ANGELA**, attractive 66yr old free minded and spirited lady. Genuine with varied interests seeks gent 65+. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428485 ☺**CARMEL**, open minded naughty lady seeks a broad minded strict man to unleash her wilder side. Age/looks unimportant but no time wasters please. Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 426851**SUSANNA**, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428661 ☺**CAROLINE**, 42yrs, well educated, sophisticated "some call me posh" married lady, looking for no strings midweek liaisons. Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box 427533**CAROL** 49, feminine lady WLTm optimistic fun male to see what the future brings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428577 ☺**CHARLOTTE** 33, classy curvy blonde looking for something a bit different WLTm kind, loving, fit male for some fun and excitement. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428563 ☺**MARIA** 44, leggy blonde seeks tall professional male for fun nights out, cosy nights in with plenty of TLC and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428447 ☺**PAT**, 69, young looking, looking for someone for friendship, interests are going out for meals, reading and walking. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428461**JOY**, mid 50s independent lady, brunette, loves dining out, seeking gent of any age. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428373 ☺**YOUR regional dating service**, run by the dating experts who have been established since 1990. **REAL people in YOUR region****Try it... You'll love it!****To Reply** to members call:**0906 500 3955**

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HEATHER, 54yrs, slim brunette with petite figure, loves keep fit. Seeks chap for nights out, fun times, must be honest and kind. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428491 ☺**VICTORIA**, 46yrs, bubbly outgoing nurse, petite pretty brunette. WLTm N/S man, any age, must have GSOH and be kind. ACA. Or text. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428489 ☺**MARIA** 44, leggy blonde seeks tall professional male for fun nights out, cosy nights in with plenty of TLC and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428447 ☺**DAWN**, attractive, easygoing, WLTm mature male for fun loving no strings romance. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428417 ☺**SALLY** young 50, happy go lucky blonde, looking to let her hair down with a happy, down to earth guy with dark hair. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428269 ☺**KATHERINE** 39, romantic, slim, feminine, loves to live life to the full, seeks adventurous outgoing male to appreciate and share fun times with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428403 ☺**CARING**, young at heart lady seeks tall caring gent with GSOH for friendship, outings and car drives. Text only replies. Mailbox: 6042252 ☺**TAMARA**, 44yrs, beautiful Indian lady seeks a Muslim gent 40+. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428147 ☺**SALLY** young 50, happy go lucky blonde, looking to let her hair down with a happy, down to earth guy with dark hair. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428269 ☺**Single Men**

Hi I am a single Indian male in my 50s, and would like to meet a mature female 55+ for a NSA friendship. Text only replies. Box no: 4627019 ☺

WALSALL male, looking for no strings adult fun, with lady of any nationality, colour or age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428773 ☺**MALE**, age 68, very active looking for lady for NSA fun. Can accommodate. Text only replies. Mailbox: 6026972 ☺**EASYGOING** likeable man likes a drink at the pub, and nights in front of the telly and a cuddle, looking for lady 45-55. Text only replies. Mailbox: 6066059 ☺**DERBY** male, young 57, looking for uncared, unloved married woman looking for discreet adult fun 35-55. Txt me for a good time. Text only replies. Mailbox: 5321154 ☺**MALE** seeks affectionate, tactile, no drama, down to earth woman for nights in/out and loads of cuddles. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418695 ☺**ADVENTUROUS** 36 year old, slim, dark hair, has many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235 ☺**MALE** would like to meet local female 50/60 for mutual friendship. I'm easygoing and have many interests. Text only replies. Mailbox: 5071056 ☺**COLIN** 72, from Burntwood, looking for loving lady for days out, holidays and company. Text only replies. Mailbox: 4880436 ☺**MALE**, 20s, seeks NSA fun with female. I love a laugh, age isn't important. Text only replies. Mailbox: 6042304 ☺**MALE** 46, genuine and honest and very caring looking for a LTR with lady. Text only Replies. Mailbox: 5422168 ☺**MALE**, 47, fit, slim, honest man, seeking nice, slim, honest lady for LTR, going out for drinks and having good times together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427923 ☺**MALE** 20s, chilled out and happy in life looking for woman to share life with. Text only Replies. Mailbox: 6034839 ☺**MIKE**, male, 61, seeks black or Asian lady, any age for adult fun, maybe more. Text only replies. Mailbox: 6010228 ☺**MALE**, late 60s, N/S, retired, 5ft9, slim build, enjoys holidays abroad, weekends away, travel, meals out. Looking to meet female, N/S, who enjoys similar interests, to share good times together, for friendship and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428219**JEFF**, 60s, tall, fit, young outlook, N/S, car owner, seeks similar lady for friendship, outings etc. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428175 ☺**SINGLE** dad, tall, blonde hair, good looking, keeps fit, loves the cinema, meals out, looking for a single lady for date nights. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428163 ☺**MALE**, dark hair, dark eyes, slim, 47, likes walking, camping, pubs, dancing, looking for a slim, genuine lady, for fun times and LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427831

Hi my name is Jay. I'm looking for a lady to have a lovely evening with, maybe once or twice a week. Looking forward to hearing from you soon. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427927 ☺

JACK 23, single, tall, young looking guy, kind and respectful, seeking female age/looks not important for mutual NSA fun. Text only replies. Mailbox: 6026038 ☺**MALE** 64, fit, non-smoker, looking for NSA fun with lady, any age. I am kind and caring but miss the touch of a woman. Text only replies. Mailbox: 6025714 ☺**TALL**, dark, attractive male, 56, 6ft, WLTm an attractive female, any age, for discreet fun and intimate times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428109 ☺**MALE**, attractive, 61t2, single father, loves a laugh and a giggle, looking for a lady for evenings out, company and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424303**FUN** loving Irish man, seeks relationship, for fun times and going out. Please get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428077 ☺**MALE**, 47, fit, slim, honest man, seeking nice, slim, honest lady for LTR, going out for drinks and having good times together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427923 ☺**MALE**, dark hair, dark eyes, slim, 47, likes walking, camping, pubs, dancing, looking for a slim, honest lady, for fun times and LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427831**MALE**, dark hair, dark eyes, slim, 47, likes walking, camping, pubs, dancing, looking for a slim, honest lady, for fun times and LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427831 ☺**SHAUN**, 50, honest, reliable, OHOC, employed, animal lover, likes walks in the country, meals out in country pubs, walking my dogs, looking for my soul mate. If you would like to know more get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427497 ☺**MARK** 40s, from the Birmingham area WLTm a female, any nationality, for LTR. Text only replies. Mailbox: 6016342 ☺**SINGLE** male, 43, looking for female friends for txt, phone chats, maybe more. Text only replies. Mailbox: 6017886 ☺**REMEMBER:** Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.**Big smiles as the fundraisers get ready for Neon Night Run in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice at Himley**

Here we glow — Neon Night is lights fantastic

SCORES of neon-clad fundraisers completed a fun run in Himley Park for charity.

Hundreds of people took on the 5km Neon Night Run on Friday to raise cash for Mary Stevens Hospice.

Hospice chiefs are hoping to repeat or better the success of last year's run, which raised more than £25,000.

A statement said: "The Neon Night Run was beyond anything we can put into words, and we'll be doing all the big thank yous and letting you know how much you wonderful people raised next week as soon as we can."

Charlotte Schofield, Head of Fundraising and Lottery at Mary Stevens Hospice, added: "Neon is just one of those infectious events that puts a smile on your face just thinking about it."

"Watching so many people come together, dressed in the wackiest and most wonderful outfits they can find, dancing and having fun for hours on end with their friends and loved ones is such a special thing to be a part of."

Difference

"Then, when it's all over and everyone has gone home, the legacy they leave through the money they've raised will make the most incredible difference to the families relying on our care."

"That care is only possible because of the amazing people who come to the events like Neon, so we'd like to say thank you to everyone who made this event so wonderful once again."

Immediately following the event, revellers took to social media to praise the hospice for the evening and share their stories.

Laura Fellows, Neon Night Run participant, said on Facebook: "Thank you for an amazing night, you are all truly wonderful people. You looked after my Dad with the most unbelievable care and compassion at what was a terrible time. Can't thank you all enough."

Lucy Mahoney, Neon Night Run participant, added: "Had a fantastic time tonight helping to raise money for a very worthy cause, here's to next year's Neon Night Run!"

To find out more about other upcoming events for the Mary Stevens Hospice, visit www.marystevenshospice.co.uk/events website.

The Neon Night Run raised more than £25,000 in its debut year last year, and the final total for 2017 will be announced once all sponsorship monies have been collected and counted.

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A queen wronged by man and gods

Dido Queen of Carthage, Swan Theatre, Stratford-Upon-Avon

DIDO was the mythical founder of Carthage, the north African city that was to become Rome's great rival, and she was a woman wronged by both man and gods.

This seldom staged play by Christopher Marlowe, Shakespeare's contemporary, is drawn from classical accounts of the fall of Troy and the foundation of Rome, particularly from Virgil's epic The Aeneid.

Elite

Sandy Grierson is compelling as the conflicted Aeneas, torn between the generous, loving Dido and his god-given mission to create a new city in Italy.

The gods are depicted as a drugged-up elite high on Venus' love blood with Cupid (Ben Goffe) using hypodermics to ensnare humans, such as Dido, as they meddle in mortal affairs.

The minimalist set in Kimberley Sykes' production makes much clever use of a sand-covered stage and waterfall but it is Chipo Chung, as the abandoned, broken-hearted Dido, who sears herself into your memory with her performance.

Dido Queen of Carthage continues at Stratford until October 28.

Formidable actor plays a ferocious war hero



Covered in blood and bloody-minded Coriolanus (Sope Dirisu) Pic: Helen Maybanks

Coriolanus, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-Upon-Avon

ACTOR Sope Dirisu continues as a star in the ascendance with his powerful performance as Coriolanus, a Roman war hero turned reluctant politician with a fatally short fuse.

Dirisu won acclaim on the London stage as the young Muhammad Ali in Last Night In Miami and here he portrays another fighter.

But Caius Martius 'Coriolanus' is a much less sympathetic character. Brave but arrogant and contemptuous of the ordinary Roman people who want to love him. Indeed, he never seems happier than when covered from head to toe in his enemy's blood.

The ruling class want him to be consul but Coriolanus snarls at the hoodie-clad mob when they want him to join the Roman equivalent of today's celebrity carousel. He's a PR person's worst nightmare.

THEATRE REVIEWS

by Leon Burakowski

It's to Dirisu's credit that he makes us care about this bombastic brutal snob in what is probably Shakespeare's shoutiest play. Strong support comes from Hayden Gwynne as his ambitious mother.

Angus Jackson's production makes it clear that them-and-us class politics has been around for a very long time.

Having also last week seen the impressive Chipo Chung as Dido (see review, left) someone ought to bring she and Sope Dirisu together on stage. They would make an awesome Antony & Cleopatra or spellbinding Macbeths.

Coriolanus continues at Stratford until October 14, before moving to London, and can be seen live at selected cinemas on October 11.

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Antique that can create illusion of more space

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



SOME vintage items are able to transform the look of a room all by themselves – and mirrors can do just that.

A beautiful antique mirror provides a very attractive focal point whilst almost any strategically placed mirror reflects light and instantly creates the illusion of more space.

Mirrors have always been an interiors 'essential', for both personal and practical use, and have found their way into every home over hundreds of years.

They were in regular use in Georgian times and by the Victoria era all kinds of mirrors were being produced, from 'swing mirrors' for dressing tables to elegant free-standing models.

The Victorians – especially the ones living in rather grand houses – loved huge over-mantle mirrors (see Downton Abbey) and you can still pick these up at auction for reasonable prices.

Those made from wood, like mahogany, sometimes incorporated shelves below although the ornate ones with elaborate gilded frames were plainly designed for rather more decorative purposes.



Mirrors changed shape to literally mirror changing fashions and by the 1920s and 1930s they had become smaller, streamlined and extremely elegant.

Frames echoed the popular Art Deco and Art Nouveau styles and were very much sought after to grace the walls of fashionable homes.

By the 1940s mirror designs had changed again to become a little more functional in appearance, featuring hexagonal shapes and oval wooden frames, and the 1950s versions were prettier, stylish to reflect the elegance of the decade.

The 1960s and 1970s witnessed a fashion revolution that of course extended to home furnishings and mirrors dating from these years can be anything from very plain to massively elaborate with intricate flowery frames.

When buying a vintage mirror check carefully for cracks and misting – although the very old mirrors are lovely even if they are misted, the reflections they provide are always more flattering!

- Perry and Phillips hold valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm.
- The next Perry and Phillips sale of antiques and collectibles takes place at the Mill Street saleroom in Bridgnorth on Tuesday, October 3. Viewing will be during the weekend and on Monday and also from 10am on auction day.
- New sale bidders are advised to attend the sale-room early on auction day to register and be allocated a bidding number.
- Perry and Phillips hold sales on the first Tuesday of every other month.

So much style and choice for the food we eat



Food as art – a tiered wedding cake

CELEBRITY chefs grace our television screens nightly showing us how to put foodie delights together, new publications launched weekly with the next new diet, healthy eating plan, five-minute meals or super food specials.

I watch James Martin, Jamie Oliver, Nigel Slater, Nigella Lawson, Rick Stein, Masterchef and Bake Off.

My husband cooks each evening from Joe Wicks book "Lean in 15".....yes, how lucky am I?

I love my food and am always fascinated by the delightful new flavours and complex tastes from the recipes that grace our tables. Our son has thankfully picked up the same baton and regularly enjoys experimenting on friends and family.

Most young people can cook and enjoy mixing different flavours.

They are subject to food from so many cultures and most ingredients are now available from the local supermarkets.

The choice of herbs, spices and unusual mixtures is incredible.

Children seem always to enjoy making a

STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis



mess while producing something that can be eaten, most of the time anyway!

I'm sure it makes for a less fussy eater in later years. It also seems that we go out to eat far more than our parents ever did, appreciating many more tastes.

Wedding cakes used to be a tiered simple white royal iced fruit cake decorated with inedible decorations and a floral topper.

Masterpieces

Recently the masterpieces created represent the personality of the bride and groom, their hobbies or sporting acumen, tinted to harmonise with the wedding colours, an amazing piece of art built on a Victoria sponge or chocolate sandwich with bespoke toppers to complete or dramatic displays of personalised cup-cakes.

We can now buy edible glitter, cup-cake

toppers, cartoon characters in coloured icing, and even the display stands and boxes to show them off and if we are not that confident in the kitchen, we can also buy ready-made cake, biscuit, pastry or bread mixtures so there is no excuse not to delight friends and family with our baking.

Our kitchens sport the most up to date machinery to create the perfect mixtures, liquidisers, food processors, blenders, slicers and juicers, mechanics of the kitchen to make the job a little easier.

I am personally not a lover of cakes and biscuits, so our kitchen cupboards are devoid of the packets of sweet treats.

I rarely bake anything apart from an occasional apple pie or rhubarb crumble for Sunday pudding.

I do however have shelves full of cookery books so I am certain I have all the recipes to hand just in case!

Bon Appetit!

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Slow-cooked Asian lamb – one of the recipes from Kirstie's book



Kirstie is on a mission to encourage more people to learn to cook at home

Kirstie moves to a new location – in the kitchen



The book is available to buy in hardback

TV presenter Kirstie Allsopp is best known as one half of the Location, Location, Location double act.

But now her debut cookbook, Kirstie's Real Kitchen, has just hit the shelves and she's on a new mission, to inspire people who think they can't cook to give it a try.

"It's a book for people who are not that confident about themselves as a cook. There is a big 'can-do' part of my life, which I've only recently realised," she says.

"The fun bit is doing things in a certain way that people then say, 'You know, I didn't think I could do this, and now I can'. And then you think, actually, this is really a job worth doing."

Kirstie once knew very little about cooking herself

To write the book, Kirstie, 46, mined her experiences of learning to cook, from her days as a single 20-something, to becoming a mum and step-mum to four boys. Recipes are split into categories like Big Dishes, Children & Fussy Eaters and, of course, Christmas.

"Cooking didn't play a huge part in my childhood," she admits. "My mum was fascinated by people who were interested in

Report by Kate Whiting

food. She used to say, 'Oh my God! So and so sits in bed and reads recipe books!' She was just amazed anyone would do that.

"I bought my first flat when I was 21 [in the early-Nineties] and mortgage rates were 14 per cent. Now there is a much bigger eating-out culture among young people, but it really didn't exist back then. If you wanted to see your friends, you had to cook, and that is what I did. But it was a really steep learning curve... Old friends of mine will tell you there was a whole year of chicken tikka, because I'd learn to do one thing."

Experiment

She says she's not "a risk-taker in the kitchen", although she does experiment on her property developer partner Ben Andersen more now than she used to.

Kirstie has two sons with Ben – Oscar, nine, and Bay, 11 – as well as two older stepsons, Hal and Orion. She admits that her nanny Heather does "the majority of the cooking for the children in the school term" ("It's probably another reason why I'm so keen to cook when I can," she notes).

She thinks the challenge of cooking for fussy children is one of the reasons women give up trying.

"I remember a stage when, if I cooked for the children, I would be like, 'Actually, I don't want to do it any more, can we just have a sandwich or an omelette?'"

"When you become confident in your food, you can do very quick things. So now, if given a fish, I am happy to get some peppers and tomatoes and bung them in, with a bit of marinade. It is not a stress."

"But if you're going to teach yourself to cook, you have to teach your children to wash up. That's a fair division of labour."

"If we don't cook, how do we teach our children to wash up? There is a whole generation of children that have never had to get scrambled egg off a pan – it is not right!"

But now she loves being in the kitchen

Her happiest times in the kitchen now are Sunday mornings, when she's making the roast and catching up on The Archers.

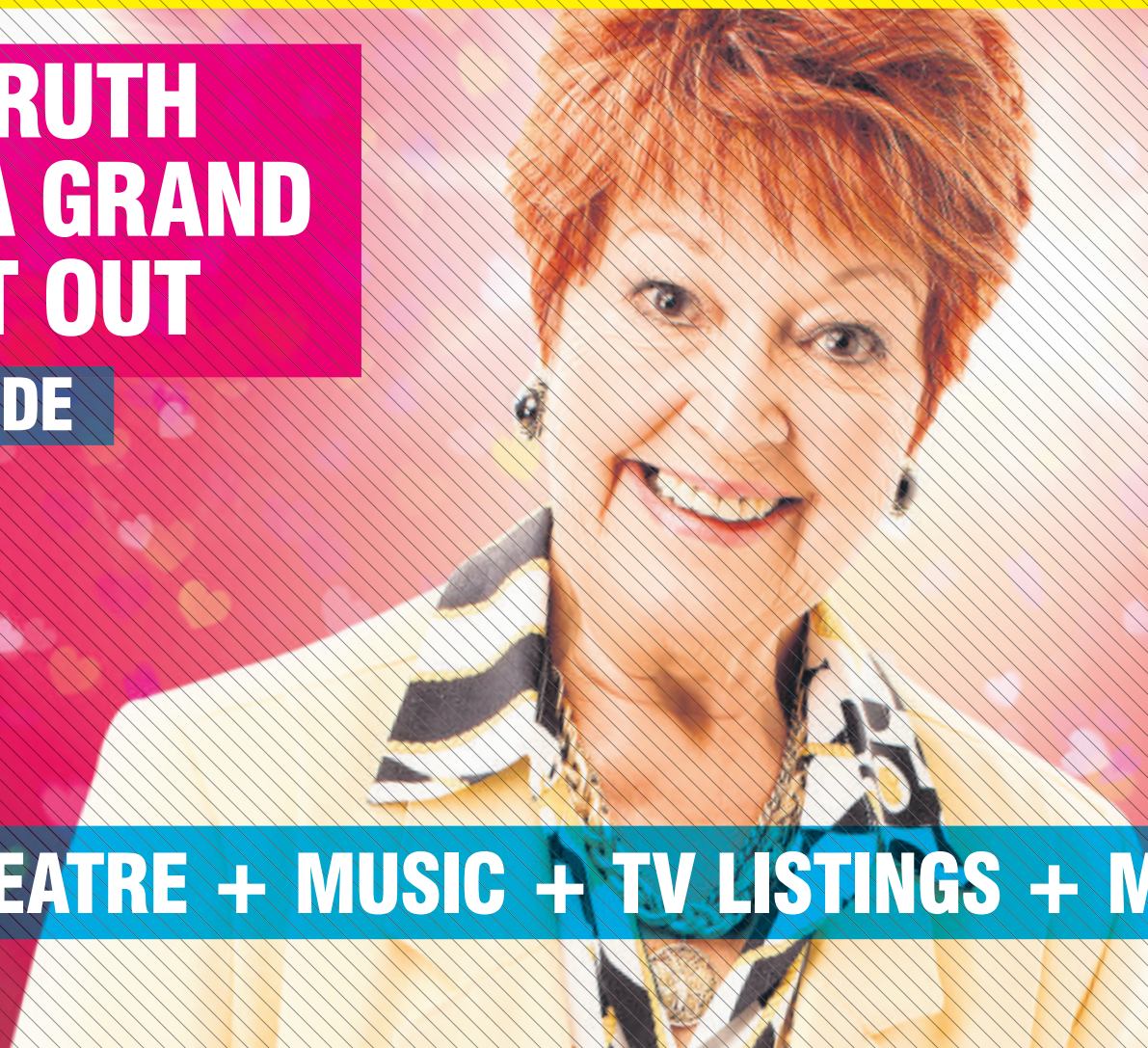
She's also a big advocate of healthy eating but says she hasn't focused on that in the book because, "if you're trying to get people to start cooking, you can't lecture them on diet at the same time."

"The absolute key is to encourage people to cook more," states Kirstie. "Once you start cooking more, you realise what goes into food and you start being more careful about what you eat. I think it is very hard to have a healthy diet if you don't cook."

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Ruth: The Grand is a spiritual home

She's as breathless as a 21-year-old featuring in her first production. Yet Ruth Madoc is one of the most seasoned performers in theatre – a star who played alongside Richard Burton, Elizabeth Taylor and Peter O'Toole before becoming a household name through TV's *Hi-de-Hi!*

She's back on the road in a new production of *The Wedding Singer*, which features at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Tuesday until October 7.

It's 1985. Hair is huge, greed is good and rock-star wannabe Robbie Hart is New Jersey's favourite wedding singer. When his own fiancée dumps him at the altar a seriously bummed out Robbie makes every wedding as disastrous as his own. The hilarious effects play out in *The Wedding Singer*.

Ruth loves the show: "It's fantastic. It's a really good high-octane piece. There's no cynicism. It's absolutely lovely. The audience can sit down and enjoy the beat as well as enjoying the love story. It's very simple but very well done."

The Wedding Singer stars Jon Robyns, best known for *Avenue Q*, Legally Blonde.

QUICKLY

Sweet-natured Julia, (Cassie Compton: *X Factor*) and her best friend Holly try to lure Robbie out of the dumpster and back into the limelight?

But if he doesn't act quickly, she might head off down the aisle with Wall Street bad boy Glenn (Ray Quinn: *X Factor*, *Dancing On Ice*)? However, Grandma Rosie (Ruth) seems to be able to see that Robbie and Julia are the couple that are meant to be.

Ruth adds: "It's a blast. We started it in February and are slowly coming towards the end. We played Shrewsbury earlier this month and I enjoyed that because I'd never played it. Then we've got the Grand, in Wolverhampton, which I've played many times. I've done all sorts of different things. You name it I've done it. I did Under Milkwood when the theatre was privately owned. The lady that owned it owned the Phoenix in London and a theatre in Morecombe. That was 1965/66. I'm really looking forward to it. It's like a spiritual home."

Ruth hits the road with her husband at the start of a production and doesn't look back.

"It's a bit like being a gypsy. We put everything in the back of the Santa Fe and just keep going. We're well into our 70s and my husband and I are like two old kippers in a box."

She enjoys lining up with new stars who are gradually carving out a career.

"I'm literally old enough to be their grandmother. But the cast are very good, they never leave me out just because I'm older. If they're going out socially they always include us."

On a song – Ruth Madoc (right) stars in *The Wedding Singer*



I think that's what I like about this show. And the production itself is brilliant. The dancing is just marvellous and the choreography is amazing. I still get an enormous thrill from just looking at the side of the stage and watching it."

Ruth has a remarkable CV. And she's continually re-remembering things that she's done in the past. "Funny enough one of the guys said to me in the cast last night, what did I love? He'd recorded something on Film Four."

It was a film I did with Jonathan Pryce and I'd forgotten I'd done it. It became a cult that. That was amazing. There's been other stuff over the years, like the film of *Fiddler* and the film of *Under Milkwood* with Richard Burton, which was amazing. I was in the original."

She still purrs affectionately when she remembers working with the great Richard Burton.

"He was fabulous. He was absolutely

The audience can enjoy the beat as well as enjoying the love story

super to work with. He didn't keep himself to himself, he mixed with the rest of us. There were all sorts in that: Tim Healy, Liz Taylor and Peter O'Toole."

TV, film and theatre have been the mainstays of her career – and she's loved them all. "I have enjoyed TV and stage equally. I love the stage but I love TV and film too. I like it all. I'm greedy."

And yet she's invariably linked with her portrayal of Gladys Pugh, in *Hi-de-Hi*. It's a role that has never left her – and she's grateful for that. A more recent role, in *Little Britain*, has also followed her around.

"I'll never get rid of Gladys but I loved playing her. As for *Little Britain*, well, that was offered to me but when I saw the script, my husband said 'no, it's rude'."

"So I sent it to my son and he read it and he asked if I'd ever seen it. He told me I'd get street cred for doing it, so I went for it and here we are."

● For more entertainment news and reviews see *The Ticket* in your Express & Star every Friday.



WHAT'S ON

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Beverley Knight in panto mode



Bev can't wait to weave her panto magic in Brum

SOUL singer Beverley Knight is making her pantomime debut at Birmingham Hippodrome – and can't wait to thrill audiences including family and friends

The singer and West End star will take her panto bow as the Fairy Godmother in Cinderella, alongside Emmerdale, Dancing on Ice and Hear'Say star Suzanne Shaw, comic and Hippodrome panto regular Matt Slack and comedy duo Ceri Dupree and Phil Randall, who will play the Ugly Sisters.

Beverley, from Wolverhampton, said: "I can't wait. My mum and the whole crew will probably be here for the first night. All the ingredients are right. I'll be home

for Christmas and it's the UK's biggest pantomime. I couldn't say no."

Beverley saw her first panto at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre. That, as well as amateur dramatics in Wolverhampton and at Highfields School, set her on her showbiz path to R&B/pop stardom and leading lady in the West End. Now she was looking forward to adding another string to her bow.

"I'm very excited. I love coming back to this part of the world, whether it's the Civic Hall or Symphony Hall or the Hippodrome."

Music fans can catch Beverley in her more familiar role when she brings her rescheduled I Love Soulsville tour to Birmingham Symphony Hall on October 8.

Lorde above it's a busy week of gigs



POP star Lorde was an instant success at the age of 16 with her debut album Pure Heroine and her breakthrough hit single Royals in 2013.

Royals topped the singles chart on both sides of the Atlantic and the album hit the no.1 spot in more than 20 countries, winning her two Grammy Awards.

The New Zealander, whose actual name is Ella Marija Lani Yelich-O'Connor, provided the lead single, Yellow Flicker Beat, for the soundtrack to The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1 in 2014.

She's back with second album Melodrama and hit tracks Green Light and Perfect Places. Her latest song, Homemade Dynamite, features a remix with Post Malone, SZA and, her tour show opener, Khalid. The Kiwi pop sensation, pictured, will be in concert for a full house at Birmingham O2 Academy on Sunday.

The Superskas are at the Newhampton Arts Centre in Wolverhampton tomorrow night (Friday). Nashville psych-rock outfit All Them Witches play Digbeth's O2 Institute 3 on Saturday, when DJ Shadow plays its main room and New Found Glory the O2 Academy.

Sharleen Spiteri brings Texas to Symphony Hall on Sunday. The Kentucky Headhunters bring southern rock to Robin 2 Bilston on Monday. London hip-hop artist Loyle Carner is at the O2 Institute Tuesday. On Wednesday Martin Turner from Wishbone Ash is at the Robin 2, while Ireland's The Strypes rock O2 Academy. Former Moody Blues frontman Justin Hayward is at Birmingham Town Hall next Thursday. Squeeze play Symphony Hall next Friday and Saturday with 9 Below Zero, while trio Arcane Roots top a triple bill at Wolverhampton Slade Rooms next Friday.

Dan and Jess in concert together

Singer-songwriter Dan Whitehouse, from Wolverhampton, is touring with folk/roots balladeer Jess Morgan including a gig in Edgbaston next Friday, October 6. Dan has toured with Eddi Reader and Boo Howerdine, and opened for Joan As Police Woman. His latest album is That's

Where I Belong. They will be perform at the MAC in Cannon Hill Park. See macbirmingham.co.uk. Meanwhile, acclaimed folk duo Megson are at the Red Lion in Kings Heath this Wednesday.



Always look on bright side of Spamalot

There's a lot of Spamalot about over the next few weeks and that will get Monty Python fans looking on the bright side of life. Two productions of the hit musical by former Python (and former Wolverhampton schoolboy) Eric Idle will be vying for audiences in Birmingham and Wolverhampton.

A new touring production of the show 'lovingly ripped-off from Monty Python and the Holy Grail' will be bringing killer rabbits and knights that say 'Ni!' to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday to the following Saturday, October 7. Then, at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre October 10 to 14, South Staffs Operatic Company present their version with sometime Fizzog James Collins as put-upon servant Patsy. Sisters Natasha Bennett-Ince and Lexie Bennett will share the role of the Lady of the Lake.

The Ticket

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SUNDAY'S TV OCTOBER 1

CHOICE



Ant Middleton

Escape (Channel 4, 8pm)

New series. A group of five engineers is stranded in the desert with the wreckage from a simulated plane crash and must use it to build a new vehicle to return to civilisation in. The team consists of an aerobatic pilot, a traditional craftsman, an aerospace engineer and two mechanical engineers. They must complete their task without access to a workshop and using improvised tools – while food and water are in short supply. Survival expert and former special forces soldier Ant Middleton is on hand to oversee the project.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Points of View. **3.15** Songs of Praise. **3.50** How to Stay Young. (R) **4.50** Invisits Games 2017. **5.50** BBC News.

6.05 Regional Programme.

6.15 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison presents the show from the Yorkshire border of the Peak District, following in the footsteps of the Clarian Ramblers, England's first working men's walking society. She also meets surviving members of the ramblers, and a poet and songwriter who has been inspired by the group's guidebooks. Plus, Tom Heap reports on the future of Sheffield's trees.

7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Pro-celebrity contest in which sets of partners battle it out to convince judges and viewers they can trip the light fantastic.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Minehead Railway Station. Among the objects brought in to be valued are a bracelet with a connection to the Russian royal family, photographs of the Beatles taken during the filming of A Hard Day's Night, and a bronze sculpture by Rodin, which proves a surprise to both the owner and the experts.

9.00 The Last Post. New series. Drama about military police and their families faced with political and personal conflicts in a 1960s British colony on the Red Sea coast. An officer and his wife arrive in Aden, where he is to replace a much-loved captain. Starring Jessie Buckley and Jeremy Newmark Jones.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Newcastle United v Liverpool, Everton v Burnley and Arsenal v Brighton & Hove Albion.

11.35 The Women's Football Show. A look at the biggest issues in the women's game.

12.10 Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **8.30** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites – Sunday Edition. **11.00** Athletics: Great Scottish Run. **1.45** NFL Live: New Orleans Saints v Miami Dolphins. Coverage of the match (Kick-off 2.30pm).

6.00 Rugby League Super League Playoff Highlights. Tanya Arnold presents highlights of the crucial clash, as the sides that finished in fourth and fifth in the Super 8s Qualifiers battled for a place in next season's Super League.

7.00 Russia with Simon Reeve. The adventurer embarks on a journey across the world's biggest country, taking him from the snow-capped volcanoes of the far east, through some of the remotest parts of the planet, to the great cities of the west, Moscow and St Petersburg. (R)

8.00 Astronauts: Do You Have What It Takes? The finalists go to the shuttle landing facility on Florida's Space Coast, where they experience weightlessness for the first time, have their motor skills put to the test at 30,000 feet and are confronted with the dangers of space travel. They also undergo further training at a NASA underwater facility before Chris Hadfield reveals who the panel have chosen as the winner. Last in the series.

9.00 Dragons' Den. Deborah Meaden, Peter Jones, Touker Suleyman, Tej Lalvani and Jenny Campbell assess the profit-making potential of three more business ideas – a range of boxing technology, a coffee business that may be on shaky ground financially, and a female fashion advisor offering a new look to male clients. Evan Davis presents.

10.00 Dawn French Live: 30 Million Minutes. A recording of the comedienne's critically acclaimed one-woman show, which takes her audience on a journey through her life's experiences. Previously seen on BBC Four.

11.55 Film: Isn't She Great. (2000) Biopic of novelist Jacqueline Susann, author of the best-selling novel, Valley of the Dolls. Starring Bette Midler.

1.25 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.25** Holby City. (R) **3.25** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Mission: Emplovable. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Ben 10. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **10.55** Amazing Animal Births. (R) **11.25** Robson Green's Coastal Lives. (R) **11.55** Bigheads. (R) **12.55** ITV News: Weather.

1.00 ITV Racing Live: Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. Coverage of the prestigious meeting from Chantilly. **3.30** The X Factor. (R) **5.00** Victoria. (R)

6.00 Regional Programme: Weather. **6.10** ITV News: Weather.

6.30 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Ben Shephard presents a celebrity edition of the quiz, in which Alan Johnson, Katherine Ryan and Jimmy Bullard answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine.

7.30 The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary presents the Boot Camp stage of this year's contest. Judges Simon Cowell, Nicole Scherzinger, Sharon Osbourne and Louis Walsh set the contestants a series of tests to demonstrate their ability to sing and dance, with the outcome deciding who gets to go through to this year's Six Chair Challenge.

9.00 Victoria. The queen is horrified by news of famine sweeping Ireland, and tries to persuade the government to take action. However, Peel is reluctant to get involved, fearing that sending aid will destabilise his own party. The crisis soon strikes at the heart of the royal household, while a determined Reverend turns up on Victoria's doorstep, demanding help for his parish.

10.05 ITV News: Weather.

10.20 Peston on Sunday. (R)

11.20 Liar. Laura Nielson and Andrew Earlham find themselves entangled in a web of deceit and confusion after they enjoy a date together. (R)

12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The King of Queens. (R) **6.30** Motor Sport: British GT. **7.00** Formula 1 Malaysian Grand Prix Live Build-Up. **7.35** Formula 1 Malaysian Grand Prix Live. **10.00** Formula 1 Malaysian Grand Prix Live Reaction. **10.45** Sunday Brunch. **1.30** Formula 1 Malaysian Grand Prix Re-run. **4.15** The Crystal Maze. (R) **5.15** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **6.30** Channel 4 News.

7.00 Escape to the Chateau. Dick gets to work on the walled garden in the spring and buys a mini tractor for the job – but it may not fit through the gate. Angel designs another suite, with black walls and mosaic mirrors, and decorates the entire dining room with blossoms so a guest can make a special wedding proposal. The couple also consider the possibility of truffle farming.

8.00 Escape. New series. A group of five engineers is stranded in the desert with the wreckage from a simulated plane crash and must use it to build a vehicle to escape in. With Ant Middleton.

9.00 Electric Dreams: The Commuter. A railway station employee is desperately unhappy both in his thankless job and his unhappy home life. His son's psychotic disorder has become an unbearable burden, and is driving him and his wife apart. Everything changes when a passenger requests a ticket to a town that does not exist. He becomes tempted to follow her route in the hope that this mysterious destination may be the only place where he can escape the frustrations of his life once and for all. Starring Timothy Spall and Tuppence Middleton.

10.05 Boris Johnson: Blond Ambition. Documentary following the first 14 months of the Conservative MP's time as foreign secretary, and examining what his political ambitions may hold for the future.

11.00 Film: The Three Musketeers. (2011) A hot-headed swordsman and a trio of royal guards fight to foil a plan to overthrow the king of France. Swashbuckling adventure, with Logan Lerman and Milla Jovovich.

1.10 WWII's Great Escapes: The Freedom Trails. (R) **2.05** Britain's Ancient Tracks with Tony Robinson. (R) **3.00** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.00** Gillette World Sport. **4.25** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **4.55** Too Many Cooks. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Poppy Cat. **6.10** Little Princess. (R) **6.25** Mr Men. (R) **6.35** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.40** Milkshake! Bopping About. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.55** Wipper. (R) **7.00** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.15** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.55** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.20** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.35** Floogals. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.05** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.20** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.00** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **12.30** Film: Bewitched. (2005) **2.30** Film: Leap Year. (2010) **4.20** Film: Serendipity. (2001) Romantic drama, starring Kate Beckinsale and John Cusack. **5.20** 5 News Update. **5.25** Film: Serendipity. (2001)

6.05 Film: Jack the Giant Slayer. (2013) Premiere. A farm boy joins a band of knights on a mission to rescue a princess from a kingdom of giants in the sky. Fantasy adventure, starring Nicholas Hoult and Ewan McGregor.

7.05 5 News Update. **7.10** Film: Jack the Giant Slayer. (2013) Premiere. Concluded.

8.00 Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights. Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman introduce action from the fifth round of matches, including Leicester Tigers v Exeter Chiefs, Northampton Saints v Harlequins, and Wasps v Bath.

8.55 5 News Weekend. **9.00** Film: The Expendables 3. (2014) Soldier of fortune Barney Ross recruits a new team to battle an arms dealer with a score to settle. Action thriller sequel, starring Sylvester Stallone and Mel Gibson.

10.00 5 News Update. **10.05** Film: The Expendables 3. (2014) Concluded.

11.25 Film: Under Siege. (1992) A veteran US Navy Seal working on a battleship as a cook leaps into action to liberate the vessel from terrorists. Action adventure, starring Steven Seagal and Tommy Lee Jones.

1.20 SuperCasino. **3.10** Film: Against All Flags. (1952) **4.35** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **4.50** Divine Designs. (R) **5.20** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.45** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Robins of Eden **7.10** Betjeman and Me **8.00** Cornwall's Native Poet: Charles Causley **9.00** Men Who Sleep in Cars **10.00** Child in Mind **11.00** Rhymes, Rock and Revolution – The Story of Performance Poetry **12.00** Acoustic at the BBC **1.00** Bombay Railway **2.00** Treasures of Ancient Greece **3.00** Darcy's Ballerina Heroines **4.00** Close

ITV2
11.05 2Awesome: Ready, Set, Style. **11.15** 2Awesome: Third Wheel **11.45** The X Factor **1.15** You've Been Framed! Family Special **1.55** Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **2.55** FYI Daily **3.00** Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **3.45** Film: Happy Feet (2006) **4.45** FYI Daily **4.50** Film: Happy Feet (2006) **5.55** Film: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **6.55** FYI Daily **7.00** Film: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **9.00** Chris & Kem: Straight Outta Love Island **10.05** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **1.00** The Cleveland Show **1.30** Chris & Kem: Straight Outta Love Island **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV3
1.05 Film: The Belles of St Trinian's (1954) **2.05** FYI Daily **2.10** Film: The Belles of St Trinian's (1954) **2.55** Film: Columbo: Dagger of the Mind (1972) **5.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium **10.00** I! Had You **12.00** Heartbeat **1.05** The Knock **3.00** Mr Selfridge **3.50** Lewis **5.30** Judge Judy

ITV4
6.35 Goodwood Revival **7.35** Fishing Alistars **8.00** The Chase Celebrity Special **9.05** Film: Memphis Belle (1990) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** Film: Memphis Belle (1990) **11.10** Car Crash Global **12.10** Film: Life on the Limit (2013) **1.15** FYI Daily **1.20** Film: Life on the Limit (2013) **2.30** The Car Chasers **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.00 Don't Tell the Bride **12.00** My Hottest Half **1.00** The Goldbergs **3.00** Film: Never Been Kissed (1999) **5.05** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (2010) **11.25** Gogglebox **1.35** Celebs Go Dating **2.35** Celebs Go Dating: The Finale **3.30** Hollyoaks **4.00** Film: The Boxtrolls (2014) **2.50** Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World (2011) **4.45** Von Ryan's Express (1965) **7.05** Crocodile Dundee (1986) **9.00** Identity Thief (2013) **11.10** Your Highness (2011) **1.15** Carlos – Part One **3.25** Close

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PUB OF THE YEAR 2017

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Stourbridge

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Every vote counts, so tell your family and friends to get
involved and help us find the Best Pub In Stourbridge 2017



Opened in April 1992
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Known for its quality real ales, well stocked selection

of premium spirits and a
choice of real ciders.

Cask Marque credited and
CAMRA pub of the year
2009.

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The Mary Stevens Hospice.

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smokers there is a large
spacious smoking area, a
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The Maverick as always
been involved in live music

with bands and solo artists
covering rock, blues,
country, folk and pop.

Wednesday evenings sees
young and old under the
spotlight on the Maverick
Acoustic Open Mic night.
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Friendly.



COMMERCIAL FEATURE

MUSICAL TREATS IN THE NEW WELLINGTON



Musical fans from across the region
are rubbing their hands together for
a musical extravaganza with Live Tributes
Every Sunday.

The New Wellington in Brettell Lane, Brierley Hill, is not only
treating its patrons to great entertainment it is also a great place to
eat, drink and socialise.

Set on the main Stourbridge to Dudley Road, not far off Brierley
Hill high street, the venue offers a carvery all day everyday from 12
noon to 8pm with a selected main menu from 5pm.



For the early started amongst us they also offer a buffet style all
you can eat breakfast from 8am to 11am, which has been brought
back by popular demand.

The New Wellington also offers a Disco and Karaoke every
Friday night, So why not come down and have a sing along!!

The New Wellington, 383 Brettell Lane, Brierley Hill, DY5 3LO
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Sam and her team at the Greyhound have totally overhauled the place with a fabulous new Menu.

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Tuesday from 5pm with **KIDS EATING FREE ALL WEEKEND.**
They also have lots of exciting upcoming events starting with a
Psychic Fayre taking place on **Tuesday 3rd October 7pm**
until 10.30pm where personal readings are available and entry
is **free!**

**Nothing planned for HALLOWEEN yet?? Then get yourselves
down to their spooky spectacular for Halloween with their
Halloween Ball with Fancy dress and spooky cocktails, not
to be missed....**As if this isn't enough they also have a fantastic
line up for **Christmas** whether it be your Christmas day lunch or
a Christmas party on the lead up they have lots to offer with a
great menu and entertainment on offer.

**For more information on upcoming events check out their
Facebook page or contact them directly on 01384 393278**

VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE

Win £25 to spend with your favourite pub

Stourbridge

CHRONICLE PUB OF THE YEAR 2017

Entries to be sent to Stourbridge Chronicle Pub of the Year 2017.

Closing date 6/10/17, Black Country house,

Rounds Green Road, Oldbury, West Midlands B69 4DG

VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE

Best Pub

Title First Name Surname.....

Address

Postcode Tel: Email:

I have read the rules and agree to abide by them

T&Cs

Entrants must be 18 or over. Closing date for entries is 6th October 2017. The winner will be notified by post. The first entry drawn by the winning pub will receive the prize. No photocopies of coupons will be accepted. The editor's decision is final. There is no cash alternative. The employees of MNA group of companies and their immediate family cannot enter. The winner must be prepared to take part in any relevant publicity.

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Amicably known as the 'Sammy', the pub is a popular setting equally for passer-bys and the locals. Boasting the most fearsome landlady in 1840, and her rival 'She who must be obeyed' in the form of Sheila, the present licensee, the team will ensure that you enjoy your time with us.

If you're just looking for a bite to eat, we have a selection of bar snacks available which can be washed down with a beer, wine, cider or spirit of your choice in a beautiful location. Remember us if you're hosting a party, we have a function room ready and waiting. Just ask us for further information regarding catering and disco hire; we have plenty of contacts to help get the party in full swing!



So, whether you're looking for somewhere to meet with family and friends, have a bite to eat, enjoy some live music or challenge yourself with a classic pub quiz, the Samson and Lion has something to offer everyone.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Tuesday 3rd October
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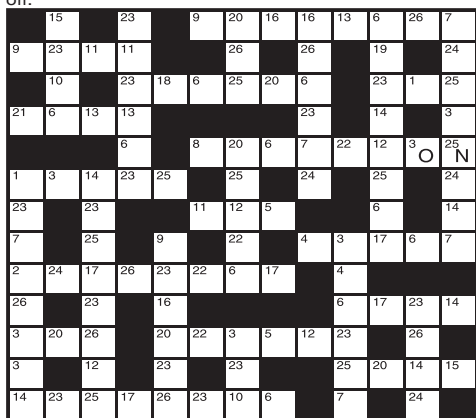


BRAIN GYM

No.449

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	F	G	B	J	D	T	V	A	M	E	H	W	U
14	I	K	X	Z	P	N	L	Y	C	Q	R	S	O

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

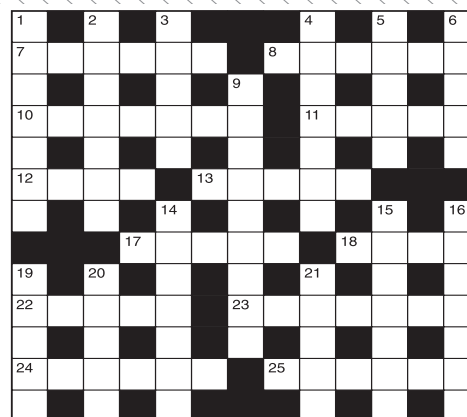
Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Successfully treated the French in capital (6)
8. Opening part of the gun, we hear (6)
10. A connection for fire-water (7)
11. Means of verifying a sudden repulse (5)
12. & 14Dn. Roguish clerics? (4,7)
13. Nervous time in the grammar lesson (5)
17. & 5Dn. Course builder (10)
18. Small valley to be found in Eden (4)
22. Come up for an increment (5)
23. A poster showing basketwork material (7)
24. I will be included in the schemes for those who take flight (6)
25. Rough medley races round the ring (6)

Down

1. See 6 Down
2. Possessed a landing-place for fish (7)
3. Plane crash in the Himalayas (5)
4. Method of manufacturing company put back in the papers (7)
5. See 17 Across
6. & 1Dn. To perturb the principal, indicate refusal (5,3,4)
9. & 15Dn. They take the litter away (9-7)
14. See 12 Across
15. See 9 Down
16. Take out insurance again, but get better! (7)
19. Western reptiles are stingers (5)
20. House I will put in Virginia (5)
21. Rings up for cotton reel (5)



Quick Clues:

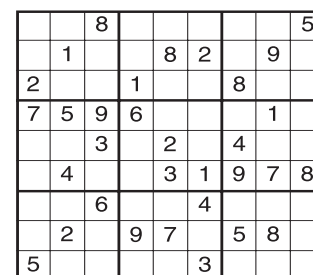
Across

7. Unconcern (6)
8. Enrage (6)
10. Whet (7)
11. Courage (5)
12. Wicked (4)
13. Avarice (5)
17. Traverse (5)
18. Lake (4)
22. Implied (5)
23. Pariah (7)
24. Condition (6)
25. Critic (6)

Down

1. Bulky (7)
2. Handcuff (7)
3. Form (5)
4. Dawdle (7)
5. Love (5)
6. Beneath (5)
9. Encroachment (7)
14. Easily broken (7)
15. Since (7)
16. Clothing (7)
19. Stick (5)
20. Shrewd (5)
21. Precipitous (5)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and every one of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

1	9	7	2	3	8	5	6	4
6	4	8	5	7	9	1	3	2
2	3	5	4	6	1	7	9	8
5	1	6	9	4	7	2	8	3
3	7	4	6	8	2	9	1	5
8	2	9	3	1	5	4	7	6
4	5	1	8	9	3	6	2	7
9	6	3	7	2	4	8	5	1
7	8	2	1	5	6	3	4	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Heart; 4 Giraffe; 8 Unequal; 9 Evict; 10 Elan; 11 Fresh air; 13 Play; 14 Base; 16 Alliance; 17 Icon; 20 Extra; 21 Article; 22 Spectre; 23 Plant.
Down: 1 Housebreakers; 2 Arena; 3 Thus; 4 Galore; 5 Rheostat; 6 Frigate; 7 Entertainment; 12 Cataract; 13 Palette; 15 Scrape; 18 Cocoa; 19 Stop.
QUICK - Across: 1 Split; 4 Pretext; 8 Revenue; 9 Think; 10 Eddy; 11 Negation; 13 Ring; 14 Scan; 16 Together; 17 Idea; 20 Opera; 21 Archais; 22 Suspect; 23 Dunes.
Down: 1 Surreptitious; 2 Livid; 3 Tang; 4 Peeved; 5 Entrance; 6 Edition; 7 Take no chances; 12 Initiate; 13 Regress; 15 Depart; 18 Drain; 19 Acid.

Quiz

1. Which gender of gnat draws blood?
2. Of which group of islands is Mount Apo the highest peak?
3. Which Archers part has been played by Trevor Harrison?
4. What was known until July 1940 as the Local Defence Volunteers?
5. Which notorious sportsman's double murder trial was presided over by Judge Lance Ito?
6. What do the initials ECG stand for?
7. What is the capital of Tibet?
8. Calamine is a form of which metal?
9. In which country is the river port Fray Bentos?
10. What is measured in ohms?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Isle of Man; 2 Jean Boht; 3 Freemasons; 4 Triumph; 5 A tranquilliser; 6 William Hogarth; 7 Mao Zedong; 8 Mediterranean; 9 Louis Pasteur; 10 Australian.

Niner: BARONETCY

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

7682365
1932
7641732

gives a fire,
gives a second fire,
gives fire up.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Revolutionary regeneration of Micra

By Sharon Walters

Nissan described the latest Micra as 'revolutionary' at launch earlier this year. And well it might have. It had to be because although this is the fifth one all the previous incarnations were pretty underwhelming.

But today's Micra is a world apart. You don't need to get inside a new Micra to witness the 'revolution'. It now has dramatic contours and splashes of colour outside and in that make you notice this car in a very good way. Along with the personalisation options to the hatchback.

In fact one in four buyers of the car are choosing to enhance the car's design with additional exterior and interior parts, according to Nissan dealers.

Customer research amongst buyers of the latest Micra reveals that 60% are attracted by the dynamic and expressive styling of the car. This is the number one purchase reason for the new Micra. So Nissan saw the light that so many other manufacturers have been following for some time!

Nissan offers more than 100 combinations available, for both the exterior and interior of the Micra and in a variety of vibrant colours.

My test car was a wonderful combination of blues which certainly did attract admiring looks

Those stand-out looks include concealed handles for the rear doors which gives it a coupe-like feel but with plenty of space in the rear. There's a big, deep boot and you can seat three fairly comfortably in the rear.

The cabin is high-quality with two-tone soft-touch materials standard across the range. It is a very nice place to be.



There's a wide variety of personalisation

Technology is strong with a number of 'in-control' features – the sort usually associated with more expensive models – now available for the first time. Not only are they new to the Micra, they're new to the segment. These include Intelligent Lane Intervention, a safety system which gently corrects the Micra back on to the right path should it be required.

You also get Nissan's acclaimed Intelligent Around View Monitor camera system – as seen on the Qashqai and Juke crossovers – on the Micra for the first time.

For music fans like me, a highlight is the optional BOSE Personal audio system. Unique to the B-hatchback segment, advanced speakers built into the driver's head rest put the driver at the heart of the listening experience.

As for the drive it is also so much better – agile and with a secure feeling and handling.

The car is available with three engines – two petrol and one diesel – all linked to a five-speed manual gearbox. Nissan's familiar five grades of Visia, Visia+, Acenta, N-Connecta and Tekna all feature a high level of standard



Nissan's Micra now has dynamic and expressive styling – gone is the rather dull look

specification. Entry level model comes in at just under £12,000.

I drove the 0.9i IG-T 90 with a five-speed manual transmission (£16,570 but including smartmetallic paint) which came with oodles of kit – both comfort and safety. And on the safety side this car

has been awarded a five-star safety rating in the UK from Euro NCAP, thanks to the standard fitment of intelligent driving technologies in the Safety Assist category of

testing together with a bagful of other active and passive measures and equipment. Every new Micra now comes with six airbags as standard, plus seat belt warnings and seat belt height adjustment in the front. The Isofix car child seat fitting system can be used with the new Micra, including in the front passenger seat, for the best possible child protection.

Additional safety features on every Micra include Electronic Stability Program, anti-lock

brakes and Hill Start Assist. A speed limiter, automatic headlight sensor, automatic hazard lights and a Tyre Pressure Monitoring System are also fitted.

My perky little engine managed well over 60mpg on mixed driving and never felt under pressure either when motorway cruising or taking on winding country lanes.

The Micra small family hatch is now ready again to mix it with the best of the opposition out there out there.

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Fabulous Ford features

The Ford Focus has been named the most popular car in the UK for the second year running. It's no surprise then that Ford has completed its SUV line-up with a larger model, the Edge, a car that takes the brand back into the luxury part of the segment.

Hills Ford have new 66 plate Fords at the very best prices

Model	Price
NEW FORD FOCUS	£12,999
NEW FORD FOCUS ST	£14,999
NEW FORD FOCUS RS	£16,999
NEW FORD FOCUS S	£11,999

Brindley Hyundai Aiming high with supermini

The new Hyundai i10 is a supermini that's aiming high. It's a car that's designed to be a fun car to drive, with a sporty look and a range of engine options.

The Brand New Hyundai Tucson

Arriving in the Brindley showrooms on 24th August.

Autosales Suzuki Suzuki true to principles

The design gets minor visual tweaks, the option of 4WD and a new-door body style.

NU66 REG

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SUZUKI S-Cross	£14,499
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Wraps off new Citroën C3

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Reduce heat loss by up to 75%

Also upgrade your existing double glazed units to Pilkington
EnergiKare, it will help to reduce the amount of heat lost
through your windows by up to 75%, lock, handles, hinges.



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01384 918383

Delph Glazed Units

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Visit our new website

www.delphglazedunits.co.uk

Mobile: **07887 520599**



To advertise your business and reach more than 56,000 potential customers...

1

Call us on...
01384 399901

2

E-mail us at...
sue.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

3

Post to...
Sue Jones, Stourbridge Chronicle
3 Market Street, Stourbridge DY8 1AB

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New or enlarged hatches
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Mobile: 07913 355290
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Email: sales@greenlabpestcontrol.co.uk

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Premium Products Expertly Fitted
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2 E-mail us at...
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3 Post to...
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If you are thinking of selling, look no further than the estate agents in these pages for the best local advice available.

Classified Ads

Buy Local, Sell Local

funeral directors

Wombourne
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& Monumental Masons
For your nearest branch
call 01902 892635
wombournefuneralservices.co.uk

A TRADITION OF TRUST



"We are very pleased with the service offered by the Express & Star. Our business and advertising needs are always well met."

Wombourne
Funeral Services.

For great business results call
01902 319 191

Classified Ads
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Independent family run
Funeral Directors
24 hour service

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www.nedowning.co.uk

ALL OBITUARY NOTICES now appear online. Add your condolence messages, sympathies or memories by visiting www.expressandstar.com/obituaries

lost & found

LOST - From W-ton Road, Sedgley, Thursday, Sept 14, small build black and white female cat, please check sheds. 01902 681316.



MISSING

Daisy, a three year old black and white cat with four white paws, from Snyd Park Estate Willenhall. She is micro-chipped and suffers from a heart condition.
Any information
07804 329903.

religious notices

christadelphian

WHAT THE BIBLE REALLY TEACHES The Bible inspired and infallible, October 1, at 6pm, The Community Centre, High Street, Kingswinford. Or write to The Dawn (ref:KCE) 5 Station Road, Carlton, Notts. NG4 3AT for free information pack or ring 01384 886544 for recorded message.

1 Family

elderly & disabled

CADIZ SHOPRIDER mobility scooter, with canopy.
01902 3041312.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2 Leisure Time

caravans / motorhomes



SITED NEAR BEWDLEY

static mobile home, on site clubhouse, swimming pools, superb views.

No time limits on your unit.

£20,000

07717090817

caravans wanted

WANTED ALL CARAVANS

Any age or condition
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TOP PRICES PAID
Immediate collection.
CALL THOMAS
07717 280 996
www.tscaravansandmotorhomes.co.uk

LET US SELL YOUR CARAVAN/Motorhome for you and get the best possible price. Severn Valley Leisure, DY8 4HP. 01384 390183

mind, body & soul

hair & beauty

MODELS REQUIRED for Samantha Rushbury at Bad Apple Hairdresser Shop, opposite House of Fraser, 11am - 6pm. 07593 529929.

what's on

antique fairs

ANTIQUE/COLLECTORS FAIR Kinver Comm Centre, Sun 1st October (inc postcards) (also Bromsgrove every Fri) EST 1979 Waverley, Next Book Fair Sun 15th Oct. Stalls available for all. Home made refreshments. 0121 550 4381

markets

BESCOT SUNDAY MARKET
OPEN EVERY SUNDAY
Bank's Stadium, Walsall FC
WS1 4SA. FREE PARKING, J9 M6
07889 975701. All hard standing

holidays

caravan sales

A CHOICE OF CARAVANS FOR sale from £1995 to £6995, accessory shop, service, repairs, storage. Severn Valley Leisure Stourbridge, DY8 4HP 01384 390183 www.severnvalleyleisure.com

travel abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertiser that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

3 Home & Services

furniture

CANE CONSERVATORY set, breakfast table, 2 chairs, 2 armchairs, very good condition, £175 ono. 01384 295788.

SLEIGH BED CHESTERFIELD STYLE 4ft 6", beautiful crushed velvet, bespoke, handmade, unused. Cost over £700 accept £295. 0778 7636984.

household appliances

NEFF COOKERS Inter grated full size cooker, fan assisted. Also matching combination cooker with microwave. Both cookers in new condition. £50 ono. 01922 419189.

items wanted

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS Any gauge or age Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On. 0121 532 2544/07891 713547 thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com



A BEST CASH PRICE PAID FOR DIE CAST CARS / LORRIES / TOY SOLDIERS Air fix, Britains, Corgi, Dinky, Spot on, Tri-ang. Best prices paid. Any condition. Collections bought. Telephone 01922 327897 or 07976 691563.

AUTO MEMORABILIA WANTED

SHELL, ESSO, CASTROL ETC ALSO

GARAGE CLEARANCES Old Enamel Signs, Petrol Cans, Old Jugs, Bikes and Motorbikes. Anything old. ** TOP PRICES PAID ** 0121 532 2544/07891 713547

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

SPECTRUM GAMES Wanted plus any old Crash Magazines. Wanted also any old your Sinclair magazines wanted. 01902 892918.

WANTED
VINTAGE TAMIYA REMOTE CONTROL MODELS
Also any old radio controlled models in any condition, Mardave, Kyocho, Traxxas, HPI Team Associated, Schumacher
Big or small collections bought.

07568 585075 or
0121 532 2544.

items for sale

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

ANTIQUES COLLECTABLES FURNITURE FOR SALE (New and old) Sunday, September 24, At Grange Farm Shop, Albrighton, Cosford Grange Farm Shifnal TF11 9JB. 10am-2pm. 07973 775560.

COUNTRY AND Western items, 6 hats, bells, saddlebags and many other things. Offers. 07486 241199.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc. CCTV cameras supplied & fitted. Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

specialists at your service

aerials

THANK YOU CLASSIFIEDS!



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Steve -
AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call
01902 319 191

Classified Ads
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

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AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99
01902 858191 • 01384 429166
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST CCTV cameras, litter bin wallmount, free quote/any area. 07850 330251

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

building services

G & D BUILDERS
Over 35 years exp
All aspects of building work
Extensions, loft conversions,
roofing, driveways &
landscaping.
All work guaranteed
**07837 994465 /
01902 579592**

carpet & upholstery cleaning

A BRILL CLEAN FOR YOUR CARPETS & SUITES
Special offers Sept / Oct
OAP discounts.
Call Steve on 07496 922324

electrical services

STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL
Rewires/sockets/fuse boards etc.
All domestic and commercial work.
07786 858977/01902 846167.

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Days of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards. **£695**
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
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www.portwayfencing.co.uk

gardening services

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We offer you a professional gardening service whether it is one-off jobs, weekly to monthly
WE SPECIALISE IN:
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Ekmgardencare@hotmail.com

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No Job To Small!
Free Quotes!
**07752 146554 or
07835 905090**

house clearances

ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING CLEARED
FULL OR PART, GARAGES AND SHEDS RUBBISH REMOVED WASTE LICENCE
01384 486456 / 07711661135

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

painters / decorators

LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly, Professional Female Painters & Decorators
Attention to detail, competitive prices. For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle. Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
01384 287577 or 07812 484194
www.love-2-wallpaper.co.uk

plastering

AT PLASTERING & RENDERING
FREE quotes & all work guaranteed.
07526 593701

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING Services. Home/Garden Improvements. Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

plumbing & heating

PLANT PLUMBING & HEATING
• BOILER SERVICING
• GAS FIRES, COOKERS
• BREAKDOWNS/REPAIRS
• LANDLORD CERTIFICATES
Call Steve 07481 819324

removals

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS AND HOUSE CLEARANCES

We move anything. Professional service, 45 years' experience, DFS approved and we take the stress away.
Please call:
07966 281957

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL IAN. Man with a large van. No job too small, no distance too far. 07973 628534, 01902 891535.

rubbish removal

LET'S TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed Load/Remove anywhere, House Clearance. 07969 628382

skip hire

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH! No Skips, we load, fast friendly service. 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

BOXER DOG Approx 6 years old, free to good home. Genuine reason for letting him go. 07855 140296.

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS

All neutered, inoculated and microchipped.
Call 01902 291080 or visit www.gtwolverhampton.co.uk
f [gtwolverhampton](https://www.facebook.com/gtwolverhampton)
t [gtwolverhampton](https://twitter.com/gtwolverhampton)

5 Business & Farming

fruit picking

PYO APPLES at Norbury's Norrest Farm
7 miles from Worcester on A4103 Worcester to Hereford Road
Cox's, Kidd's Orange Red, Russets and Bramleys.
Also available
Norbury's Black Bull Cider.
Open: WED to FRI 2PM-5PM
WEEKENDS 10AM-5PM

6 Property

flats for sale

GROUND FLOOR

APARTMENT

Two bedroom,

Situated in the village of Penn,

Large parking area.

£110,000 ono.

01902 331155.

mobile homes

MOBILE HOME FOR SALE RESIDENTIAL RETIREMENT SITE

Knowlesands, Bridgnorth.

Atlas 39ft, 2 bedroom.

1 en suite.

Beautiful views across River

Severn Valley and Severn

Valley Railway runs at rear of

sight.

Offers around £70,000 ono.

For inquiries call

07976 090870.



To advertise your business call **01902 319 191**

properties wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price FAST 4 Your House CASH



You agree the price, we buy the house...

- NO AGENTS FEES • COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
- FREE SOLICITORS • ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION

0800 999 999 6
01 384 500 500 **30 yrs**

www.black-countryhomes.co.uk * subject to terms

CASH NOW FOR YOUR HOUSE
UP TO **£25,000** We can buy your house in **2 days**
CASH ADVANCE NOW (in 24hrs)
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Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**
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Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

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Our directory page on expressandstar.com has generated extra activity on our website."
Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer
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Brought to you by Express & Star

Need to sell your house quick?
WE WILL BUY YOUR HOME... FAST FOR CASH
Guaranteed sale in 48 Hours
No Hassle For You | No Commission or Surprises
We help in all situations: REPOSSESSION | DEBT | DIVORCE | REDUNDANCY
Get your FREE Quote
Call us today on: **01902 50 44 48**
or visit our website: mpknights.co.uk

overseas property
NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

accommodation to let
NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.
SMALL FLAT fully equipped, refurbished, suit mature male. £95pw + some services. 07715 603557.

THREE BED large, house, Bilston, garage, decorated, carpeted CH, £650pcm. 07886 781724.

7 Jobs
full time - general

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TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
JOBSDAY**
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REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

AMADA
Comprehensive Manufacturer of Metalworking Machinery
Tooling Solutions Engineer
A permanent, full time position based at our Kidderminster Head Office requiring previous engineering and drawing experience (CAD) and engineering qualification
Duties include : providing technical support and solutions to customers and colleagues; producing manufacturing drawings; generating quotations; processing orders; liaising with suppliers and overseas offices
CV and covering email to include salary expectations to Wendy.white@amada.co.uk by 14th October 2017
See website for more details. No agencies

courses
Learn how to take blood TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST
NATIONALLY RECOGNISED AND ACCREDITED
Introduction to Phlebotomy
TWO DAY COURSE - National UK Qualification
NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
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HIGH DEMAND IN: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - Community - MOD

8 Motoring
cars over £1500
HONDA CIVIC VTEC SE
2007, 1.8, petrol, 88k miles, one owner, full service history, alloys, a/c, radio CD.
Great condition
£2,995 ono.
01902 850622

MUST BE SEEN
FORD FIEST TITANIUM 1.4
5dr Automatic
33,500 miles, 9 months MoT, metallic silver, 2 lady owners, very good condition.
£5,950.
07910 263625.

HYUNDAI GETZ CDX
2005, silver, 1300cc, petrol, 5dr hatchback, 40,000 miles, full MoT.
£1,700 o.n.o.
07798 687756



HYUNDAI I 10

2009, 25,655 Miles, silver, abs, electric windows, air con, fsh, alarm, long MoT, Alloy wheels
£2,695
07971291203



MAZDA MX5 1.8S ROADSTER

MoT April 2018, registered 2001, 10 services, immaculate bronze, alloys, EW, Pioneer DAB sound, chrome roll bars, garaged.

Bargain £1,575

0121 384 7888 /

07771 428793.



KIA SPORTAGE XE

2009, 81,000 miles, silver, abs, 8 months MoT, metallic paint, central locking, 1 previous owner, excellent condition.

£3,000.

07802 366512.



MITSUBISHI LANCER GTS

2009, 123,000 miles, black, ABS, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, alarm, long MoT, metallic paint, central locking, very good condition.

£1,800 ono.

07815 768028.

4X4 NISSAN NAVARA OUTLAW

2009, 2.5DCi, twin cab, van truck with rear cover, alloys, new tyres, side steps, black with grey leather, very clean, 179,000 miles.

£££'s spent on vehicle.

£5,995

07411 414284.

MUST BE SEEN

NISSAN QASHQAI N-TEC 1500CC

70,000 miles.
12 months MoT,
Silver. Extras.
Very good condition.

£6,750 ono

Must sell.

01384 392260.

ROVER MINI

Open classic

1275cc

1992, 55,741 miles, MoT till March 2018, british racing green, electric sunroof.

£3,000 ono

07549 160950

West Midlands



VOLKSWAGEN FOX 1.2

3 door, hatchback, 2007, black, petrol, manual, MoT September 2018, 55,000 miles, two keys, alloys, excellent condition.

£1,875 ono.

Telephone 01562 911634 or 07871 521216.

cars under £1500



AUDI A4 1.9TDI

1998, 134,000 miles, black, abs, electric windows/mirrors, air bag, alloy wheels, alarm, 12 months MoT, 6 CD player, 3 keys, lady owner, first to see will buy.
£795.
07824 640192.

BARGAIN

CITROEN C5 ESTATE

2002 diesel

Very good condition

Full MoT

SOLD



RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE DCI

2005 (55) 99,950 Miles, Silver, abs, e/w, alarm, MOT Sep 2018, central locking, pas, diesel, sunroof, Alloys, CD. Good Condition.

£1,095

07411 236615



FORD ESCORT TURBO DIESEL ESTATE

Alloy wheels, 2 new tyres.

Reg P577JAR,

recent new battery.

Spare or repair.

OFFERS.

07530 837888.



FORD FIESTA

2002, red, 5dr, 52k miles, 6 months MOT, excellent condition
£550 ono
07504 775959

GOOD RUNNER

FORD FOCUS

54 PLATE. 1796cc.

PETROL.

61,000 miles.

9 months MoT.

Good runner.

Good condition.

£450 ono.

07845 112592.



MERCEDES A160

5dr, 1.6 hatchback, 2001, 83,000 miles, MoT September 2018, excellent condition, good value

£675

01902 753807.

BARGAIN

NISSAN MICRA 1.0CC

2002 Reg., 8 months MoT, met silver, good condition, new battery, lady owner, new car forces sale.

£250 o.n.o.

07791 703843.

GOOD RUNNER

PEUGEOT 206 CONVERTIBLE 1.6 ALLURE MANUAL

05 plate.
Silver blue.
Just over 44,000 miles.
Good condition.
New Cam belt. Alarmed,
New tyres.
£1,250.
07708 446234.

GOOD RUNNER

RENAULT KANGOO 1.9 DIESEL

W reg.

MoT.

Tow Bar.

Reliable.

£675.

07754 121452.

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

VAUXHALL CORSA 998CC

2003, blue, MoT July 2018, good clean condition inside and out, 76,000 miles.

£800.

Telephone 07758 013170.

(Fordhouses).

classic cars

WANTED, CLASSIC Car. Private cash buyer. Any condition, anything considered.
01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

motorbikes



KAWASAKI KX65 MOTORCROSS BIKE

Nice condition throughout, many new parts, 2009.

£700 ono

07495 752322.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

A BETTER PRICE for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale.

NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD
Brierley Hill 01384 76568 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.

vehicles wanted

alan reed cars

Used cars wanted for cash

Top prices paid. HP settled.

Buyer could call.

01562 711083 /

07831 245313

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

spares & accessories

clutches / brakes / gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE

Renault Scenic, Vauxhall Zafira, Renault Clio, Ford Focus & KA and MANY MORE!!
Ring for quotes

30 yrs experience

ALL AREAS COVERED

Call Bob

01384 251328

07972 169554

anytime

spares/parts

FOUR ALLOY WHEELS

Mk7 Golf GTI, excellent condition, virtually brand new tyres included £400 ono. Leather interior to fit Golf or Bora, custom made. £200 ono.
01902 862610.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

DAVID JOHN FRISBY (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of The Cottage, Mease Lane, Bebbington, Stourbridge West Midlands, who died on 10/08/2017, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 08/12/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

mg Solicitors LLP
1 High Street Bromsgrove
Worcestershire B61 8AJ

MARION GLADYS LESCHIN (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Hillcrest Manor Nursing Home, Redbrook, Minsterley, Shrewsbury SY5 0DL, and formerly of Victoria Lodge Care Home, Best Street, Brierley Hill West Midlands DY5 1RB, who died on 10/03/2017, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 01/12/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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THELMA SUSANNAH CARWARDINE (Deceased)
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Ivan presents trophies to Tai Woffinden (1st) Kevin Wolbert (2nd) and Nicolai Klindt



Ivan Mauger leads Ole Olsen and at the back Doug Wyer at Wembley in 1976



Speedway supremo Ivan Mauger – the six times world champion rider



One of the bikes up for sale at the auction to be held next month

Speedway star Ivan’s bikes up for grabs

A COLLECTION of bikes belonging to speedway supremo Ivan Mauger will be going under the hammer.

The six times world champion rider, now aged 77, often competed at Monmore in Wolverhampton and the former Heathens track at Dudley Wood during his career.

His 1977 World Speedway Championship winning Jawa Dohc racing motorcycle will be up for sale with a reserve of up to £18,000 during the event at Staffordshire County Showground.

Mauger’s bikes will be offered at Bonhams’ annual Autumn Stafford Sale on October 15. Mauger won a record nine world championships during his career as a motorcycle speedway and longtrack rider.

Voted

A winner of more than 1,000 international events in 26 countries across the world, he is legendary throughout the motorcycling world.

He is the holder of six world records, including most individual championship wins and most individual world speedway wins.

Simply put, he is the most successful and decorated solo performer that the sport has ever known and was acknowledged as such when he was voted Man of the Millennium by speedway followers.

Bonhams Motorcycle Department is to offer Mauger’s collection, which comprises more than 50 lots, including championship speedway and longtrack racing motorcycles, trophies, awards and ephemera.

SPORTING FEATURE

By David Banner

A winner of more than 1,000 international events in 26 countries across the world, he is legendary throughout the motorcycling world

Meanwhile, The Carole Nash Classic Mechanics Show also takes place over the weekend of October 14-15.

The Classic Mechanics Show features flying Kiwi Aaron Slight – probably the best rider never to win the World Superbike title – taking centre stage.

Stunning

Exhibition manager Nick Mowbray said: “We are so excited to have Aaron Slight at this year’s Carole Nash Classic Mechanics Show.

With more than a decade racing in the World Superbike series, the New Zealander will have plenty of great races to draw from.”

On site will be nearly 1,000 trade and autojumble stalls, stunning club stands and private entries – the perfect place for any classic motorcycle fan to pick up that elusive part and meet thousands of other like-minded individuals.

Richie to train Rio for boxing debut

FORMER world champion Richie Woodhall will train former England captain Rio Ferdinand in his pursuit to become a boxer.

Ferdinand, who retired from football in May 2015, wants to gain a boxing licence and compete for a title belt at the age of 38. He will be training with former WBC super-middleweight champ and Baggies fan Woodhall, aged 49.

Woodhall believes Ferdinand has the potential to box at a professional level and praised the former defender’s fitness and enthusiasm.

“In all honesty, I think Rio can definitely box as a professional given time. He has natural power in his right hand, is extremely fit and is very enthusiastic to learn,” said Woodhall.

“Style wise, he’s very raw and I’ll have to develop this which will take time but he has all the natural ingredients.”

Woodhall has a wealth of boxing experience to offer Ferdinand. He competed as a professional boxer for a decade between 1990 in 2000.

Former Saddlers star links up with hospice

A FORMER Walsall player has teamed up with a hospice to give people the chance to stay connected with younger generations of their family after they die. James Chambers, who also played for West Bromwich Albion, has partnered up with Mary Stevens Hospice for the initiative.

His company MyFarewell will be launched in November, providing a video service allowing people to record messages and stories for their family. Mr Chambers said: “This is something I’ve been passionate about doing for nearly a decade. However losing dad a few years ago really did hammer home how important it was for me to provide this service for families, so the same season I finished playing and started working on MyFarewell.”

Dan Malin, digital media specialist at Mary Stevens Hospice, said: “One of the most important things that we offer our patients is the opportunity for them to create a memory box for their families, which they fill with photos, objects, stories and treasured personal items which mean so much to them, and to their loved ones.”

EFL clubs in favour of closing window early

EFL clubs have indicated they are in favour of an early closure to the summer transfer window from next season.

The decision was taken following a summit of all 72 clubs last Thursday, and will be subject to further discussions before it is put to a formal vote in February.

The EFL is set to follow the Premier League after its clubs agreed to close the window the day before the start of the 2018-19 season earlier this month. The EFL’s proposal however, would continue to allow the signing of players on loan until August 31.

The indication by the EFL teams to introduce a shorter window for player transfers follows debate about the uncertainty caused to managers and players with activity still ongoing once the season has started.

EFL chief executive Shaun Harvey said: “We will now go away and look to develop a set of proposals before moving this matter on to the next stage, which would be a formal vote in order to change our regulations.”



Glassboys let two points slip away

Stourbridge 0 Lancaster City 0
STOURBRIDGE will be kicking themselves after allowing maximum points to slip from their grasp in a goalless stalemate with Lancaster.

The Glassboys had enough chances to clinch three Evo-Stik Premier points during a first half when the City defence was at full stretch.

But as the game progressed, Stourbridge looked increasingly unlikely to break the deadlock against an often packed, but well drilled, City defence.

It was during the early stages of the game that City's goal led a charmed life as Stourbridge created a number of openings. Leon Broadhurst blazed over as City struggled to clear from a corner on 13 minutes and hit the post on 22 minutes before the ball was scrambled away for a corner. From the resulting cross, City goalkeeper Josh Powell managed to block a goal-bound effort from central defender Jack Duggan.

Stourbridge continued to press and, two minutes later, Powell pushed another effort from the advancing Duggan round the post.

From the following corner, the unlucky Duggan was denied again when this time City defender Ryan Winder cleared off the line.

Stourbridge could find no way through in the second half despite the introduction of new signing Devorn Green from Hedgesford, who looked lively. But it was City who could have snatched the points. Glassboys goalkeeper Matt Gould saved at Craig Carney's feet on 81 minutes before a scare in stoppage time when a shot from Scott Harries beat the keeper but struck Ollie Wood and cannoned back into Gould's grateful arms.

Super-sub Spray nicks a late draw

Halesowen Town 1 Warrington Town 1
SUBSTITUTE James Spray rescued a point for second-bottom Halesowen with an 88th-minute strike in a scrappy Evo-Stik Premier contest against high-flying Warrington at The Grove.

The Yeltz suffered an early blow when central defender Dominic Smith limped off after just six minutes. The Yellows then took the lead in the 17th minute when Caleb Richards beat goalkeeper Dan Platt at his near post with a deflected shot.

Visiting 'keeper Anthony McMillan raced off his line to block Luke Shearer's 22nd-minute effort and Lee Chilton blasted a free-kick straight at McMillan six minutes later. Platt prevented Warrington from increasing their lead when he beat away a fierce shot from substitute Joe Mwasele after 75 minutes.

But the Yeltz finally equalised with two minutes remaining when the Warrington defence failed to clear captain Asa Charlton's left-wing cross, allowing Spray to smash home.

Knight unpicks the Lockmen's defence

TEAM DUDLEY are in high spirits after thrashing Willenhall Town 7-1 at home in the West Midlands League Division One.

They are leading the way after seven games – five wins, a draw and a loss – while the Lockmen are on an awful run, sitting second-bottom with one point and a minus 37 goal difference.

This clash on the artificial surface at Priory Road started with Willenhall looking bright, but the hosts took the lead against the run of play through Craig Edmunds.

And he was involved in the second just a few minutes later as his header was saved, only to fall to Bradley Cox who fired home.

Chris Knight then made it 3-0 to the home side before the interval.

Jake Sharman got the Lockmen hoping of a comeback with a smart finish shortly into the second period, but any hopes of a comeback were quashed as Knight soon slotted home from the penalty spot.

He went on to complete his hat-trick, before

Jack Stafford grabbed a brace in the final minutes to complete the rout.

Also in the division, Darlaston Town extended their unbeaten run to seven games, winning 4-0 at Bustlehome.

Gornal Athletic trounced Wyrley 6-2, Old Wulfrunians beat Telford Juniors 2-1 and Tipton Town were thrashed 6-1 at St Martins.

In the tier above, the West Midlands Premier, Wolverhampton Casuals drew 3-3 with Tividale. In the tier above that, Midland League Premier, Lye Town lost 2-0 at Bromsgrove Sporting.

IT'S SIX OF THE BEST BY STOUR

Wharfedale 10 Stourbridge 45

KEEN to take revenge for being 'nilled' last season, Stour were determined to make a better game and did so with six converted tries to cap their best performance for years.

After a nervous start from both teams, it was Stourbridge who scored first from a Scott penalty only to be cancelled out three minutes by the boot of fly half Tom Barrett.

The scores then remained level for the next 12 minutes of play that saw most of the advantage to Wharfedale with Stour giving away a series of penalties for a variety of offences. Wharfedale missed a drop goal attempt in front of the posts.

The best chance they had was after a lightning break by Barrett and, with open More penalties followed by both teams. However, Joe Heatley who took a quick throw in after Wharfedale had knocked on into touch broke the deadlock. His throw found Steve Leach who, in turn sent the ball to Afeafe Haisila and eventually George Morgan scoring out right. Scott converted.

Heatley was rewarded with a try of his own, after slick work by the back three, and scored his fifth try of the season with a final assist from Dan Rundle. Scott's conversion meant the visitors were up by 3-17.

Defend

Stefan Thorp who crashed over for his first try of the season. Haisila saw a yellow card for an offside and Stour needed to defend bravely but Cicognini evaded a last ditch tackle to score. Barrett made a fine kick from the touchline.

Heatley sprinted 40 metres and touched down for his second try of the day. Once again, Chris Scott added the extras. A penalty lineup gave possession to Stour and man of the match George Morgan scored under the posts. Haisila converted. Replacement hooker Jack Lea trundled over for Stour's sixth try. Haisila converted and the game ended with Stourbridge in top spot.



Action from Stourbridge's memorable victory at Wharfedale that put them top of the table

Double triumph puts racers in Premier class

ENDURANCE stars Pete Wright and Martyn Siviter claimed back-to-back titles in just their second year of racing after wrapping up the championship at Snetterton.

The Black Country-based Double Two Racing – which also saw racers Scott Stevens and Harry Blades step in for

the team – rode to the Club 600 title, having dominated the newcomer class last year. Wright, from Tividale, and Siviter, from Blackheath, will now move up the premier class after winning their latest crown with a round to spare. Wright said: "A massive thank you to our third team member and unsung

hero who is our head of pit crew, a wonder woman that holds the team together, my wife, Aly."

The Double Two Racing team arrived at Snetterton on the back of three race wins and four second places. It meant Wright and Siviter, who had led the championship since round two, just needed a third place finish.

Ball hopes to build on his debut

DANNY Ball is looking to build on his debut knockout victory with another thrilling performance on BCB Promotions' 'You Asked For It!' show at Wall-sall Town Hall later this month.

The 21-year-old made light work of Martin Kabrhel in July stopping the Czech fighter in the opening round.

The Kingswinford boxer was delighted with his professional debut and is looking forward to his second punch-for-pay contest, against MJ Hall, on Saturday.

Hall is something of an unknown quantity, having fought just once to date but not to Ball. The pair have enjoyed the odd sparring session over at Wednesbury Boxing Academy and Ball is looking forward to renewing acquaintances.

"I sparred Matt (Matt James Hall) leading up to my debut," Ball told bcb-promotions.com. "He's a nice lad. He's southpaw, so it's something a little different. He's from my neck of the woods too, so that adds another dimension to the fight."

Topping 'You Asked For It', sponsored by Grosvenor Casino Walsall, is the Midlands Area Middleweight Title clash between undefeated Tom Stokes (West Bromwich) and Tyler Denny (Rowley Regis). Bloxwich super bantamweight, James Beech Junior, Wolverhampton's super flyweight, Kyle Williams, Ledbury super lightweight, Alex 'Pinky' Florence, and Stoke light heavyweight, Luke Caci, are also in action. Wolverhampton welterweight, Lauren Johnson, completes the card.

Wolves speedway duo's hopes fade

FREDDIE Lindgren and Tai Woffinden saw their world title bids take a hit as red-hot Slovenian star Matej Zagar won his second straight FIM Speedway Grand Prix in Stockholm on Saturday.

Wolves captain Lindgren scored nine points to leave him fourth in the standings with 107, 25 points behind championship leader Jason Doyle.

And things were even worse for Wolves asset Woffinden, whose six-point haul put him sixth in the table – seven points back from Lindgren.

But it was Zagar who was the star of the Swedish meeting, winning the event and surging up to eighth in the series.

★★★

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Birmingham Dogs Home was founded in 1892 on land made available by the late Sir Alfred Gooch Bart in New Canal Street, Birmingham. Sadly this building, which over a century later still had 'Birmingham Home for Lost and Starving Dogs' proudly displayed above its doors, was destroyed in a fire during 2014' but from the foundations established at this humble building, the charity continues to exist and grow.

Almost 100 years after the charities founding - in 1987 - the Duchess of York officially opened the new Bartholomew Street home, which had been purpose-built to provide shelter and protection for over 150 abandoned dogs in comfortable kennel blocks with adjacent facilities, such as its own vets' clinic, puppy unit and isolation block.

The home is a charity which can only survive through the generosity and support of the general public and benefactors from the local community. Without this we would be unable to carry on the vital work of rescuing and rehoming abandoned dogs.

The tremendous help given over the years has allowed us to improve and extend our facilities and, therefore, our ability to care for these unfortunate former pets.

While the Birmingham site houses our head office, our second site - Sunnyside - in Coven, Wolverhampton, is a showpiece 21st century home built at the cost of £2m and opened in September 2002.

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Our New Home

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After looking at 65 potential sites the Trustees agreed to purchase

a 12.45 acre site situated on Catherine de Barnes Lane, Solihull. The site is in the Green Belt, so a very detailed environmentally considerate design had to be put together if the charity had any hope of gaining the necessary planning approval from Solihull Council. Such a scheme was compiled and on the 10th July 2013 planning approval was granted for the construction of a £5.5M Animal Welfare Centre.

On the 22nd September 2014 work began on site with the new home opening on the 23rd October 2015. The Centre comprises of 128 large kennels with under floor heating, veterinary suite, education / community centre and superb staff facilities. The 12.45 acre site gives plenty of room, for volunteers and supporters looking to find their new companion, to walk dogs in open countryside.

Birmingham Dogs Home recognises that none of this would have been possible without the loyal long standing support of the people of Birmingham, Solihull and the West Midlands.

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Client Hills Vets are putting on a FREE event for pet owners where they can come and meet Joao and learn more about dog behaviour, and ask questions about their own pet. The event will take place at 7pm on Monday 23rd October at Client Hills Vets' Bromsgrove practice, 5 Kidderminster Road, B61 7JJ. Booking early is advised, call 01527 889810 or visiting clienthillsvets.co.uk to book your places.

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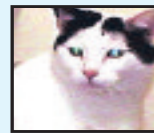
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